



Nuxalk Nation Blockades Logging



Nuxalk Chief Ed Moody arrested defending his home

BY GAVIN EDWARDS

When they clearcut our ancient rainforests they clearcut the Nuxalk culture. As they clearcut Ista, which is sacred to the Nuxalk, they are clearcutting our history.

—HEREDITARY NUXALK CHIEF NUXIMLAYC

In Bella Coola, British Columbia (BC), Collette Schooner, a Nuxalk Nation youth, sits atop a 30-foot tripod blocking access to a logging road into Ista. She is surrounded by a sea of stumps stretching some 80 acres off into the distance and can observe streams cut right to the bank, choked with slash from logging. Further down the road, some 50 people have joined together, including hereditary chiefs, a band

councilor and other Nuxalk. Head Hereditary Chief Nuximlayc invited environmentalists to help stop the desecration of Ista. Forest Action Network's campaign boat and Greenpeace's *Moby Dick* are anchored nearby providing support. Still more protesters can be seen across the valley, perched high on a grapple yarder, dwarfed by another huge clearcut. Welcome to Ista, where First Nations and environmentalists are again working together to protect the land from clearcutting.

In 1995, Ista was the site of a huge action where 22 people were arrested for peacefully blockading International Forest Products (Interfor) from punching a road into the heart of the Great Bear Rainforest.

A lot has happened since then. Every major BC environmental group is now working up among the fjords on the coast. The relationship between caring First Nations people and environmentalists has grown.

Further south down the coast, almost every valley is scarred by roads and clearcuts. Three huge clearcuts totaling almost 200 acres now scar this once-pristine rainforest. Interfor plans to clearcut 11 more swaths of rainforest from Ista in the next three years. They also have plans to log at least seven more of the remaining intact valleys in Nuxalk territory within the next 10 years.

The Nuxalk Nation lost 80 percent of their population when white settlers spread small-pox a century ago. They have witnessed 22 salmon runs go extinct in the Bella Coola Valley. Their ancestors' graves have been desecrated. Their timber has been stolen by successive generations and their community suffers 80 percent unemployment. Despite all this, they stand proud, unfailing in their vision. Their strength and laughter despite such odds, after decades of abuse, can only be described as remarkable. Not all Nuxalk bands support the blockade. Some are instead trying to negotiate with Interfor to clearcut part of their territory in return for a handful of jobs.

Following the blockade, a media frenzy occurred. However, mainstream media rarely mention that Ista is a rainforest valley of great spiritual importance to the Nuxalk.

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The Death of the National Forests

BY ALEXANDER COCKBURN AND
JEFFREY ST. CLAIR

It's heartbreaking to say it, but if you care about the national forests of the United States, it looks like the whole ball-game is just about over. Using the pretext of catastrophic fire and the slippery techniques of "consensus-building," the forest destroyers are even now pushing through Congress a bill to double the amount of logging in national forests in the California Sierra. What's bad for the Sierra will be even worse for the forests of Idaho, Alaska and Oregon, where timber lobbies are far more potent. If you take 320 million board feet a year off the Sierra, you can probably triple that amount in prolific forests of Oregon, which is precisely what Rep. Bob Smith, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee that oversees the Forest Service, is proposing to do.

On July 26, President Bill Clinton will descend upon Lake Tahoe and there he hopes to sign a law whose very name should send chills down the spines of all experienced friends of nature: the Quincy Library Group Forest Restoration Act. At Clinton's elbow will stand the midwife of this awful legislation: Senator Dianne Feinstein. At stake here is some the last intact forest in John Muir's Range of Light in the California Sierra, beautiful stretches of Douglas-fir, the last prime forest habitat in the state.

On July 9 the House passed a bill that will double the amount of logging on nearly three million acres of national forest land in the Sierra mountains near Lake Tahoe. Known as the Quincy Library Group bill, it is the ultimate symbol of how the consensus process works and how eager the Congress is to follow its dictates.

The bill was crafted by a group of conservationists, timber industry reps and pillars of the Quincy community, a small town on the Feather River in the western foothills of the Sierras. After five years of mutual back scratching the Quincy Library Group developed their own timber management plan for three nearby national forests: Lassen, Plumas and Tahoe.

Fear of fire was central to their strategy. They knew full well that fire is the abiding dread of the gambling magnates and prosperous homeowners around Lake Tahoe. Playing on these fears, the Library Group said that the only way to combat a costly inferno is to push through an accelerated logging program.

The excuse comes in the following guise: a need to carve a network of fire breaks inside the three national

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Super Heroes Against Genetix—Its Not Just Cricket

BY JO-JO TATO

A sporting new tradition may have started in England, thanks to the ground-breaking work done in a genetically engineered (GE) potato field test site just outside Cambridge by a bunch of eager cricketers known as Super Heroes against Genetix.

The uniformed team refused to let the absence of basic equipment interfere with their enthusiasm for the game. They substituted potatoes for the traditional red cricket balls and had a field day, in spite of muddy playing grounds and a "sticky wicket." Cricket being what it is, most of the balls were smashed to bits, and the rest lost in the upturned field. In fact, the entire GE potato crop was destroyed. Never one to wallow in the mire of self-pity, Captain Chromosome, a Super Heroes spokesperson, said "The Test Match proved a huge success if somewhat one-sided—we fielded a game of some thirty Super Heroes whilst the Cambridge team didn't even show up. It simply isn't cricket."

Similar actions against GE foods are occurring throughout Europe, especially in Germany where activists have used everything from demonstrations and test field squats to large-scale crop destruction (usually attributed to strange windy nights and unexplained crop circles). The cricket action, however, is thought to have been Britain's first

nonviolent direct action on a GE test-site.

When informed of the outcome of the match, Plant Breeders International (PBI) Director, Norman Killiam, expressed disbelief at the score, "I don't see how this is possible." He claimed that the destroyed crop was not genetically engineered, but was instead "normal," demonstrating that even PBI recognizes GE foods as "abnormal."

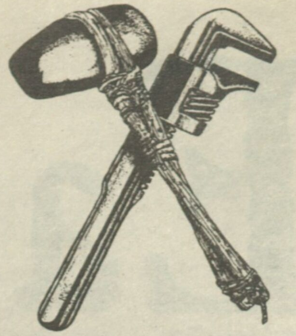
The targeted potatoes contained an antibiotic resistance gene that has also been put into engineered maize. The introduction of this gene into plants is actively opposed by Austria, Luxembourg, Italy and France, and does not have the support of any country in the European Union.

Serious concerns about GE foods are numerous. Genes from manipulated plants can be transferred to wild and cultivated relatives via the usual pollination methods and through human transport. Genes from GE plants can also transfer to microorganisms, and microorganisms can transfer genes to other, unrelated microorganisms through several different mechanisms. All GE plants contain the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus, a virus related to the Hepatitis B virus in humans. Used as a "switch" to activate the foreign genes that have been introduced in the crops, this virus recombines with others to create stronger strains. Genetic pollution from GE crops has a frightening potential to wreak havoc on eco-systems and the process of evolution itself.

EARTH FIRST!

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Everybody's Got Something to Say...

You may be wondering what this deranged diatribe of disorder appearing in the editorial column is all about. With the Rendezvous, an office move and the Salmon river calling our staff to myriad places, time to thoughtfully compose an editorial has been scant. Please understand, dear reader, that this lunacy is the invention of possibly the most chaotic *Journal* staff in history. With my cohorts being a nutty, mellow woman who chain-smokes cigarettes so cheap they're essentially rolls of newspaper shred and cage lining, another half-pint live-wire of a gal and her teething puppy sidekick (maybe Kooshee should have written the editorial about masticating my bicycle helmet), a Longhaired devourer of all things organic and strange who's blood runs a rabid camouflage, a droll fella with an eight-inch pompadour and a graduate of the school of "mañana," and a misunderstood combatant of worldly evil who, in his own sweet, predatorial way, just wants everyone to get along, it's shocking this went to press at all.

—AYELET HINES



So when only having a paragraph to rant I chose to speak to the issue of women's empowerment. I'm talking about how women cansupport each other. I don't think that all the "bad shit" that happens to women in the movement is caused by men. It's not all about "gender issues" and "power dynamics." A big problem I have is that women don't back each other up. This doesn't mean you have to back up something you don't agree with just because it came from another women. Just use your voice and let the group know what you think. Take a stand and don't back down!!!! Confront shit as it is happening. Don't stew about it and bring it up, sometimes years later, at a women's circle. That's a really good way to have a lot of us women never attend another one. Women come in all different kinds of style, we need to honor diversity!

—CATHIE BERREY

Working on the *Earth First! Journal* is like blocking a logging road with enough wingnuts to actually win

—JOHN BOWLING

I would like to start by saying that I hate humans. They scare the shit out of me and make me mad. They come up with stupid shit like the Quincy Library Plan and Holistic Resource Management and act like they did something good. I don't like that. So I hate 'em, hate 'em all. Except the ones I like. Most of are good at entertaining me, making me laugh. Humor. I like that. The *Journal* could use more humor. Some humans in the movement could use a sense of humor. Because they think that if they have a problem with another movement human—or ten—it should be a serious, public movement matter. Which it ain't necessarily. So that makes me mad. Which I don't like. But since I have a sense of humor, it also makes me laugh. Which I like. Biocentrism. I like that.

—ROXANE GEORGE

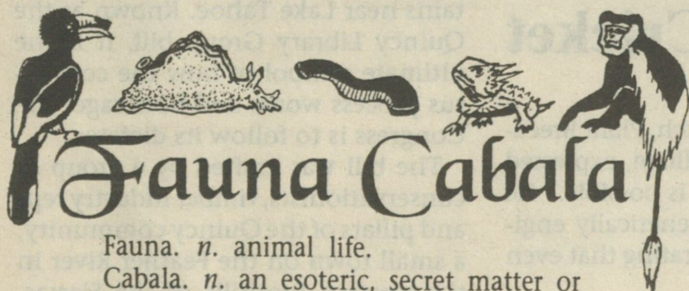
"Sleeping during the day produces no benefit, but neither does it cause resentments or give rise to quarrels or lawsuits."

—Master Ge Hong, 220 A.D.

—JAMES JOHNSTON

I would just like to say thank you. Thanks to the RRR organizing committee for putting on a kick-ass rendezvous. Thanks to all the locals who attended the rendezvous and brought us food, beer and homemade wine. Thanks to the Rendezvous kitchen crew for three meals a day. Thanks to Patrick and Ashley for helping us relate to each other. Thanks to the Crandon Police and Forest County Sheriffs for helping us further publicize the Exxon mine by arresting peaceful protesters. Thanks to the Mole Lake tribes for supporting the post-rendezvous action by giving us sanctuary and food. Thanks to all the hobos who helped get dozens of us to and from the rendezvous safely. Thanks to Patagonia, the Fund for Wild Nature and others who have sent support our way. Thanks to all the folks in Eugene who help us or at least tolerate us. Thanks to all the folks who helped the *EF!* move into a new office! Thanks to the current batch of short-termers who had to deal with the most chaotic issue of the *Journal* ever.

—JIM FLYNN



Fauna Cabala

Fauna. *n.* animal life.

Cabala. *n.* an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

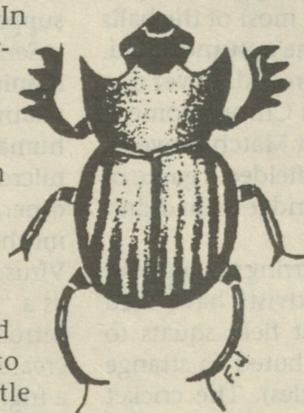
Over 7,000 beetle species have shit for brains. Dung beetles (superfamily Scarabaeoidea), who rival the entire class of birds in species number, have for 250 million years exploited the nutritionally-rich resource that drops from intestinal tracks. Before dung beetles flourished with the radiation of mammals, their ancestors may well have trooped after terrestrial dinosaurs. Modern beetles locate excrement by odor, and for those who eat monkey poo, that peculiar thud on the forest floor. Thereafter, beetles eat, bury, steal, and otherwise frolic among the fecal matter according to their specialty.

Dung beetles are of three behavioral types: dwellers, rollers, and tunnelers. Dwellers set up their household in dung, feasting and ovipositing in the fresh globs. Rollers mold fecal balls and roll them away; tunnelers sequester caches of excrement beneath the pat. Both rollers and

tunnelers make nests by burying poop for baby food, and can provide elaborate parental care. Other beetles, the kleptoparasites, thief from these nesters to maintain their coprophagous lifestyle.

Driven by fierce competition for excrement, some beetles don't wait for feces to fall. Anus-dwelling dung beetles of monkeys, wallabies and sloths eat dingleberries around the anus, occasionally following the poop earthward to lay eggs in the pat. Some anus-dwellers clutch the perianal hairs of wallabies, stretching to catch the crap that cannonballs them to the ground. In India, several beetle species forage directly in the human intestine. Another beetle with it's own poo factory is a South American who rides large snails and sups on their slimy dung. This is unusual because most dung beetles prefer the nutritionally superior scat of mammals. In fact, mammalian population declines and extinctions have the potential to kick the crap out of dung beetle diversity.

by Faith Walker



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All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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August 31

Warnerizing Your Uprising

BY TAFLUFFMA

I'm in a taking stock kind of mood, ready to revisit a few classics. It's been almost two years since the Warner Creek Blockade drew worldwide attention to lawless logging on public lands, and it's time to take a good hard look at the lessons that can be drawn from that campaign.

It is truly inspiring to witness the energy and audacity of a new generation of EFlers taking such dramatic and committed stands to defend ancient forests. Neither their actions nor their attitudes are anything new, however. The blockade at Warner Creek was an evolutionary progression of tactics that has been unfolding in the movement for nearly 15 years.

First, Earth!ers, a quick history lesson in the rich tradition of road blockading that has long been a part of the EFl movement. EFlers began blockading logging roads in the early 1980s during the simultaneous Bald Mountain and G-O Road actions. These early blockades were simple and often spontaneous, and usually involved merely sitting or standing in front of bulldozers. Self-described as Gandhian in nature, the primary objective was to get arrested in order to generate public attention to what was then a non-issue in the news media.

A real turning point in the development of militant blockades was the Cahto Peak campaign in 1988. After hours of consensus circles failed to come up with a viable plan to blockade the logging road leading to the timber sale, a small affinity group took it upon themselves to build barricades. Boulders and logs were rolled into the roadway, and deep trenches were dug in the road. Dubbed "tank traps," these trenches successfully prevented sheriffs and loggers from reaching the sale units. The blockade worked in conjunction with political actions by the local Native American community (Cahto Peak is sacred ground to the Klamath Nation), and with legal actions to gain an injunction. This legal/extralegal strategy was brilliantly successful, and the ancient forest atop Cahto Peak is now part of a designated wilderness area.

The Breitenbush actions of 1989 expanded upon the tactics of the Cahto Peak campaign and brought together an even larger number of activists. Night after night, dozens of people came from the city to build rock-and-log barricades and dig shallow trenches into the logging road right under the (snoring) noses of security guards, sometimes for the benefit of media cameras. Some of the innovative barricades employed included a huge bonfire barricade placed on a bridge and a "traffic jam." The most famous barricade involved an activist who buried himself up to his neck in a wall of boulders. A photo of his scowling No Compromise face jutting out from the rocks was printed in newspapers all over the world. The Breitenbush blockade also

coincided with legal actions, but sadly, the pro-timber industry judge ignored the law and refused to grant an injunction. Although the North Roaring Devil timber sale was logged, the blockade gained national media attention that for the first time covered the actions without raising the specter of treespiking or quoting Dave Foreman. Many activists point to the Breitenbush blockade as the turning point in the debate over logging of ancient forests. The Shawnee Summer Campaign of 1990 was



Rally for Warner Creek, Eugene, OR.

another turning point in the evolution of "free states." It was the first time a basecamp was placed in the middle of an active logging road. Normally, basecamps are located away from action sites where they can afford some degree of sanctuary to activists, but in this case, Shawnee EFlers selected the clearest, most level spot for camping—which was the road! An elaborate community kitchen was the initial blockade, and this was later reinforced with a barricade made out of an upturned school bus. The Freddie kept their distance for over a month, expecting the activists to get bored and go home. This allowed the community to build its support network and attract an increasing number of blockaders. Later, Freddie law enforcement agents tried unsuccessfully to break the blockade with numerous assaults and psychological warfare techniques, but the Shawnee encampment held out and successfully prevented logging for the duration of the season.

Each of these past direct actions required struggle on many fronts—in administrative, legal, political and extralegal arenas—to make them successful. It may surprise some of the newer EFlers, but there was not always easy acceptance of these tactics; many EFlers had to struggle with themselves and each other in order to philosophically integrate barricade blockade into the movement's repertoire of nonviolent direct action techniques. Indeed, the barricade

blockade is a tactic that blends mass civil disobedience with affinity-group monkeywrenching into a kind of hybrid: mass monkeywrenching.

The Warner Blockade, the "Cascadia Free State" as we took to calling it, was a smashing success. Against seemingly insurmountable odds we held the road for 11 months, made the infamous Salvage Rider a household word, and saved some of the most beautiful old-growth forest in the world. Like the Chicago Cubs stealing a road game from the world champion Yankees, the Cascadia Forest Defenders humbled the US Forest Service, the FBI and the whole Clinton Administration.

Since then, a handful of folks from that same hardy crew has tried to emulate that success all over the Pacific Northwest—at Jack Squat, Horse Byars, China Left, Sphynx, and a half dozen other controversial timber sales. And with considerably less success: the trees at Horse Byars are all horizontal now; most of Sphynx is on the ground with nothing standing in the way of the rest; the timber beasts took big chunks out of China Left and continue to move inexorably into Jack and Noble.

Folks will continue to put their bodies on the line for these places. They will slow them down, they'll draw media attention to the senseless destruction of sacred places, they'll continue to be a wrench in the machine of progress and eventually, someday, that machine will grind to a halt.

But by that time it could be too late. The Coho and spotted owl will be no more, new roads will shatter the last undisturbed areas, once pristine streams and endless emerald forests will be wastelands. The biological integrity of the land will be irrevocably damaged. Sure we'll win a game here and there, but we're going to finish with a losing season.

So are Warner-style blockades *passee*? Are we kidding ourselves? Are we going to lose?

No. But we need to take a (short) break from our running around and soberly reevaluate our tactics and think seriously about ... our strategy.

Speaking of classics, an old *compañero* just dropped a helluva book on me—Ché Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare*. Says right here, on page 54 that:

... the positive quality of this guerrilla warfare is precisely that each one of the guerrilla fighters is ready to die, not to defend an ideal, but rather to convert it into reality. This is the basis, the essence of guerrilla fighting. Miraculously a small band of men ... goes beyond the immediate tactical objective, goes on decisively to achieve

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Letters to the Editors

(Submit letters to: SFB, EFl Journal, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. Limit letters to 300 words.)

HEY E.F! Journal,

Whats with the Cybertron Earth First! Logo on the June-July Journal? I hope it's just a joke (flaunting new software) but if not, Hell I don't care much anyways.

Thanks to whoever sent in the

"Reclaiming the Streets" article last issue, what great ideas!! Car bouncing sounds like a blast and Critical Mass already kicks lethargic ass here in Santa Rosa

Always offending the Buisnessmen,

—DIANNE FEINSTIEN

editor's reply:

I hope you like the new cyber EFl. We decide that computers are in fact our friends. Look for the new cybertron tools and fist on a website near you!

—JF

Dear founder,

My name is Jenny Bamford and I am from Granville Middle School in Ohio. I just wanted to let you know that I think it is great that we have environmental organizations, especially Earth First! because I feel the earth should come first. I recently did a report/project on Earth First! and found that it's very interesting. I am sorry about the unabomber

who must have up your organization a bit. Thanks again for helping our environment!

Sincerely,

—JENNY BAMFORD

editors note:

Dear Jenny

Keep up your interest in Earth First!. I too grew up in Granville, OH, and look where I've gotten to now!

—CB

Dear Shit For Brains,

I am a short-termer at the Journal this issue. I am afraid of reprisals, so I'll just call myself "Fluff-head." I want the world to know that the staff here is ugly and foul. They all live in the same goddamned place, all, like five of them, AND THEY DRIVE TO THE OFFICE EVERY DAY IN FIVE DIFFERENT FUCKING CARS (except for Ayelet.) It's a 20-minute bike ride from their house, the old Journal office. Before they moved here I rode my bike out there every day. But they

are too fucking weak. I thought you should all know: Even the local Sierra Clubbers bike to work, but not the Journal staff.

—THE LONE ENVIRONMENTALIST AT THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

Lame environmentalists reply:

Yes, it's all true! We really have no excuses, but if you want some real dirt, look in oh-so-perfect Fluff-head's room. It's nice in there: the lights, the stereo and the fan are always on, even when his is off somewhere on his bike!

—CB and JF

Hello,

i've only returned two days ago from doing jail support and protesting at the rendezvous. it was my first efl involvement, and i'm only 16, and i must say it was one of the best experiences that i've ever had, and i now have an idea of what i want to do with my life. the people were amazing, and we



didn't get to much trouble from freddies (some of the locals were fairly disgruntled but so it goes). I learned a lot about blockading, about the mine, train hopping, how to be a pain in the ass to jailers, and having fun in the woods (thanks megan). and i hope to see everyone again in Oregon.

—K.W.

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Dillon Free State Busted!

BY LORI COOPER

On June 23, concerned local citizens, North Coast Earth First!, and traditional Native Americans established the Dillon Creek Free State on Bear Peak Road (Forest Service Road 15N19) near Orleans, California, in the Klamath-Siskiyou Bioregion. The road is the only access to the northern units of the Outside Timber Sale on the Klamath National Forest. Twenty-five people held the road for four days, until US Forest Service (USFS) Law Enforcement and Siskiyou County Sheriffs pounced on them in an early morning raid.

One activist was arrested before he was able to lock down to one of three sleeping dragons buried in the road. Two activists were able to lock down before the Freddie grabbed them, and they stayed locked down for 27 hours before being taken into custody.

Since that time, the road that was the scene of the protest has been closed by the USFS citing "safety concerns" due to wash outs and slides, despite the fact that the road has been damaged since the New Year's Day Storm and was open to the public up until the blockade action. No logging has occurred since the blockade, although road crews have been repairing the extensive storm damage along the road.

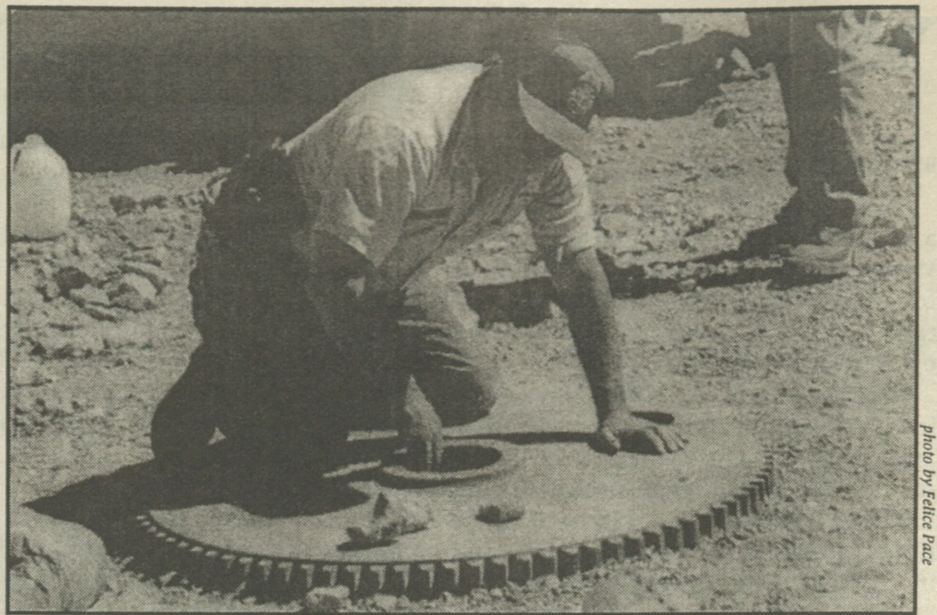
Of the thousands of timber sales sold under the Salvage Rider, the Outside Sale was among those most forcefully protested by the environmental community, and one of the few that was also opposed by Native Americans on religious freedom grounds. The Dillon Creek watershed contains

sites sacred to Yurok, Tollowa and Karuk Native Americans.

Logging began in late spring in the remote Dillon Creek watershed, a tributary of the Klamath River, located on the Klamath National Forest just south of the Oregon border. Dillon Creek is one of only six streams in California that continue to support spring-run steelhead, a fish species which, like salmon, goes to the ocean but returns to the freshwater streams of their birth to lay eggs. Unlike salmon, however, steelhead do not die after they spawn, but either remain in the stream or return to the ocean. Dillon Creek has been identified by scientists as a watershed that, because of its cold water and near-pristine habitat, is key to the survival of salmon and steelhead stocks which are threatened with extinction. Organizations representing commercial and sport salmon fishers have also opposed logging in Dillon Creek. Coho salmon, already listed as "threatened" in Northern California under the Endangered Species Act, are also present in Dillon Creek. Road reconstruction and logging will involve risks to water quality that are unwise and unacceptable.

This is not the first time the remote Dillon Creek watershed has been the site of controversy. Decades ago the USFS began building a road from this remote area of Northern California to Crescent City on the coast in order to make the area more accessible to logging. The road was planned through portions of Dillon Creek within one quarter mile of sites used by Native Americans for solitary prayer vigils and preparation for ceremonies. Native American religious practitioners filed a lawsuit that blocked construction, and part of the area was eventually designated as wilderness. Other portions of the watershed, however, were left unprotected. The lawsuit—known as the G-O Road Case—eventually was heard by the United States Supreme Court. The high court's decision, which held that the Forest Service had no obligation to protect Native American religious practices, is considered a bitter defeat by Native American religious rights activists and most tribes.

In the summer of 1994, a fire burned through parts of the Dillon Creek drainage. Even though the



"So, my hand goes in like this, right?"—Freddie prepares to lock down to Dillon dragon.

fire killed few large trees and had the beneficial effect of reducing fire loads, the Forest Service immediately planned salvage logging—including the logging of healthy green trees. On New Year's Day 1997, a large Pacific storm dumped warm rain on the snow-clad Klamath Mountains. The result was \$30 million worth of damage to the 6,000 miles of logging roads on the Klamath National Forest. Storm effects, magnified by the presence of poorly maintained logging roads, had severe impacts on salmon and steelhead populations.

Roads slated for hauling Dillon Creek logs were also damaged, and, in some places, impassable. The Dillon Creek Free State road blockade prevented road crews from proceeding with the road work that must be completed before the logging can begin. One aim of the blockade was to provide time for other environmental groups to file a lawsuit under the Clean Water Act and other environmental laws to prevent the Forest Service from reconstructing logging roads in Dillon Creek.

Actions in Dillon Creek are planned for after July 31, which is the last day of the northern spotted owl nesting period. There is a limited operating period from February 1-July 31 when no noise or other disturbance is allowed within 1/4 mile of a spotted owl nest site. Activists will begin gathering the weekend of July 26 and 27 to prepare for these actions.

Contact the Klamath Forest Alliance for more information and directions to basecamp. POB 820, Etna, CA 96027; (916) 467-5405, fax: (916) 467-3130; <http://snowcrest.net/klamath>.

Lori Cooper is an ex-Freddie lawyer. She now works for the Klamath Forest Alliance.



Dillon defenders and friends on FS Road 15N19



Showdown at McCoy Creek!



BY SCAT

In the lawless hills of northern Mendocino matters between the infamous gang of Lancasters and the motley crew of North Coast Earth First! came to a head. At stake was a remnant patch of ancient Douglas fir that surrounds the headwaters of McCoy Creek. The forest was sold to Lancaster Logging Company in a scandalous trade by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Local residents were outraged. Community members attempted to purchase the land themselves, but Lancaster snagged the forest, and in less than a week, filed plans to log 106 acres.

McCoy Creek is a critical corridor between the Red Mountain Wilderness Area and the Lost Coast. The ancient Douglas firs of the area provide essential shade for the Coho salmon that spawn in its waters. Surrounding hillsides have been devastated by the Lancaster family and many contain only charred remains of the trees that once held these steep slopes together.

To stop Lancaster in their tracks, the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) and the Piercy Watershed Association went to court to get a temporary restraining order (TRO), but in the meantime Lancaster was clear to clearcut.

Word went out that fallers entered the forest on July 17, and that night people moved in to defend the area. By 4 a.m., two forest defenders locked down to the axle of a 1/2-ton truck blocking the entrance. The TRO hearing was scheduled for 1:30 that afternoon.

The potential for violence was very real, and it would take hours for the cops to get to the scene. Before long, four trucks of workers pulled up. They seemed a bit bewildered by the fiddle-dance lockdown party that had erupted on the road. Much to the delight of the partiers, the loggers conferred, jumped into their trucks and left the scene.

Unfortunately, Lancaster lived up to his corrupt reputation and sent his gang in through an illegal entrance by persuading an unsuspecting seven-year-old to open a private gate. A band of forest defenders took to the woods to engage the loggers in a game of cat and mouse. Meanwhile, newly non-violence-trained Mendocino cops arrived to entertain the group at the gate. The cops eventually consulted with Lancaster and returned to say they had struck a deal: Lancaster would get his crew to stop if we cleared the road for them to leave.

While the cops escorted the loggers out, we learned that EPIC and the Piercy Watershed Association were granted a TRO (yahoo!), but that an "independ-

dent third party" was required to serve the order to Lancaster to make it official. NCEF! raced to get the papers from the courthouse.

Later, one forest defender came out of the woods and reported that he had met none other than David Lancaster in the forest. Lancaster had a gun and said: "it looks like I've bagged myself a hippie." He then proceeded to throw rocks at our mouse, who escaped unharmed.

After collecting the rest of the mice our posse sped off the hill to serve Lancaster with the TRO. We cornered owner David Lancaster down the road in a pick-up truck. One of our comrades walked up to the truck with the TRO. Lancaster hit the gas, screaming wildly as he raced down the road. When he got to his house, he ran in, got his gun and began shooting into the air. The Earth First!ers decided to call it a day.

The TRO is in effect until August 1, at which time it goes back to court for a permanent injunction hearing. Meanwhile, NCEF!, not trusting Lancaster, is monitoring the forest and is prepared to enforce the court order.

For more information about McCoy Creek, call the Southern Humboldt Radical Environmental Action Collective at (707) 923-DEMO.

Scat is a technical term for shit.

Nicaraguan Rainforest Under Siege

BY MARY BROOK WITH ORIN LANGELE

Nicaragua's "Wild East"

The Nicaraguan North and South Atlantic Autonomous Regions contain fifty percent of the nation's land mass and a diverse human population, including Miskito, Suma, Rama, Garifuna, Mestizo and Creole peoples. This region is becoming internationally renowned for its abundance of natural resources, with almost no barriers to rampant exploitation, and a destitute labor force.

Although legally granted political autonomy by the Sandinista government in 1987, the limitations of the region's law are becoming more evident. For example, the majority of land is property of the indigenous communities and the Constitution states that *it cannot be sold*; still large sales are common. The Constitution also states that the natural resources belong to the state, and that the natural state of the country should be maintained. The wording, however, is so over-generalized that there are no avenues to confirm compliance or to provide oversight.

Logging is already rampant in Nicaragua's North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN). New logging concessions granted to SOLCARSA promise to severely exacerbate problems for the indigenous community and the environment. SOLCARSA, also known as Sol de Caribe, is a subsidiary of the Korean multinational Kumkyung. It must be noted that the new Nicaraguan government has taken a tremendous swing to the right and hopes to join with other "free trade" northern partners such as the United States, and has quickly opened the doors to neoliberalist policies—which globally justify the multinational destruction of ecosystems and people.

boars, wild cats, monkeys, deer, parrots, wild turkeys and ducks. SOLCARSA is cutting a road into the valuable hardwoods. This area of indigenous communal land was given in a concession as if it were private land.

The new road, when completed, will reach 40 kilometers to Puerto Cabezas, the regional capital and largest port. Plans are underway to lengthen the city's dock to accommodate the increased traffic of lumber and other products. Additionally, the newly protected BOSAWAS Reserve, which was formed with little or no input from the indigenous peoples of the region, is intended to legitimize the opening of logging concessions decimating the rainforest surrounding the BOSAWAS borders.

Finicia, a Community Complies Under Force

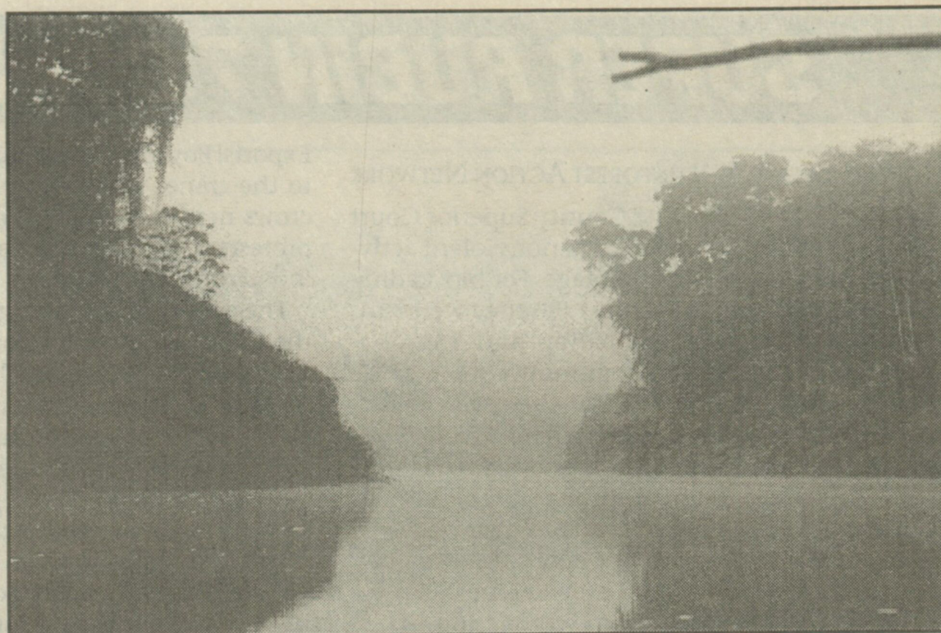
The community of Finicia is a mix of Summa and Miskito indigenous people located just outside of the mining town of Rosita. SOLCARSA is in the midst of building a major installation there to process the trees felled in Wakamby. Last year, SOLCARSA promised the indigenous community money to move, a school and scholarships, electricity, drinking water, jobs and more. When community members showed displeasure with the proposed deal, they were visited by the authorities and the local military threatened to blockade the road to their community if they did not agree. So they moved. The small amount of money that was given was used up in moving expenses. SOLCARSA has asked the community to move again for the purpose of log storage. The community is afraid of being forcibly evicted and left with even less than they have now.

Logging, Mining and Toxic Death

Another SOLCARSA installation is further northwest in an area known as Kukalaya. It involves the most valuable mahogany in the region, on sacred Summa land.

We were brought to the area by Ernesto Almodárez, the President of the Territory for the Sustainable Development of the Mayanna (Summa) of Kuhkanawas (TRENAMAKS). The Summa, already victims of the gold and silver trade, are alarmed as SOLCARSA further encroaches into their traditional homelands.

The seventeen TRENAMAKS communities, consisting of 356 families from the banks of the Rio Bambana,



View from the Rio Waspuk of the Bosawas Reserve

photo by Orin Langele/NFN

have outlined a 90,000 hectare piece of their traditional land upon from which they are being forced to relocate. Due to the irreversible contamination of the Rio Bambana, the most contaminated river in the region (poisoned by mercury and other toxins from the silver and gold mines of Siuna-Rosita-Bonanza), these communities must find a healthier place to live. The contamination of the rivers destroys the livelihood of the community. The fish that they eat have long since died or are unsafe to consume; the beans that they grow on the banks of the river wither in the now infertile land; the wild bamboo which they use to build houses, is disappearing; women are in danger as they spend many days waist-high in the river washing clothes; the children swim there, unaware of the toxicity. For years, there have been many deaths on the Rio Bambana.

What you can do:

Fax or send letters of protest to Nicaragua's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MARENA) demanding that the logging concessions granted to SOLCARSA be rescinded and the rights and sovereignty of the indigenous peoples be respected.

Write to: Ministro de MARENA, Sr. Roberto Statadhgen, Carretera Norte Km. 12.5, Managua, Nicaragua FAX (505-2) 631373 or (505-2) 631274.

We are mounting an international campaign to stop this travesty and plans are developing for another research expedition sometime in 1998.

For further information contact NFN; Tel: (802) 863-0571, fax (802) 863-2532, e-mail: nfnena@igc.apc.org or the Burlington/Puerto Cabezas-Bilwi Sister City Program, Tel: (802) 865-4074, fax (802) 863-2532.

WAVELAND—WORLD'S NEWEST NATION?

On the morning of June 15, as the sun rose over the Atlantic about 300 miles east of Scotland, a new flag was raised over a tiny chunk of rock rising out of the ocean. Three Greenpeace activists from three different countries have declared the British island Rockall to be the world's newest independent country—Waveland. On the same day, the flag of Waveland was also raised over the entrance of Greenpeace UK's headquarters in London.

Waveland has one flat ledge about 70 feet above sea level, only 14 feet long by eight feet wide. Waveland is surrounded by an oil-rich ocean bottom, with four nations vying for the rights to explore and extract the oil. Greenpeace objects to any further exploitation of petroleum resources because of the danger of global warming. A sovereign nation on an ocean has the right to extend a 12-mile exclusion zone around its territory.

A formal release from Greenpeace stated, "We reject the governance of a country which permits new oil exploration despite professed concern for the climate. Waveland is a new kind of country designed to protect the global commons rather than to exploit it. We hope this is the start of a peaceful revolution. Waveland expresses every person's right to oust destructive governance and replace it with a new one, to put the climate before profits from oil." Waveland's aims, principles, purposes and basic policies are set out in a declaration that draws on the United States Declaration of Independence, Agenda 21 and other documents. The declaration states: "Present power and past use of nature confers a proportionate responsibility to act in its defense and restitution; and that whenever any form of economy becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute new government."

Waveland citizenship was immediately offered to anyone prepared to take the pledge: "Without violence and by bearing witness, to defend nature, to protect the global commons, to reform industrialism and to secure peace, believing in action, rather than words."

Stressing that Greenpeace did not want to own Rockall, Greenpeace said, "Four nations want the oil around Rockall, we do not recognize their right to develop it. We have told (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair that we don't want Rockall itself ... We are borrowing it until it is freed from the threat of development."

People applying for citizenship can call +44-800-269-065 or visit the Greenpeace UK internet site at <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>.



Logging road intrudes into indigenous Sumo territory near Wakamby

photo by Orin Langele/NFN

Wakamby's New Logging Road

Wakamby, a large tract of uncut tropical hardwood forest, lies near Rosita, close to the boundaries of the official BOSAWAS Reserve and surrounding areas that comprise the largest tract of virgin rainforest in Central America. It is home to numerous bird and animal species that live in the area, including several types of wild

SUPER RUBIN 7 CONVICTED OF FELONIES!

By JOHN BOWLING & RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK

On July 22, 1997, Cowlitz County Superior Court Judge James Warne convicted six nonviolent activists of felony anarchy and sabotage. For blockading a raw log export ship in October '96 they were sentenced to two years probation and 15 days in jail or 88 hours of community service work each. The seventh activist will face similar criminal proceedings later this year. The prosecution also requested that \$12,000 restitution be paid, though the final amount will be determined at a later hearing. It is expected to be much higher. In the history of the environmental movement, this decision marks the first felony conviction of nonviolent protesters who did not damage any property. As such, this ruling challenges all Americans who use civil disobedience as a tool for affecting social change to resist this blatant erosion of our civil liberties.

The seven Rainforest Action Network activists, known as the Super Rubin 7 after the name of the Mitsubishi log export freighter they blockaded, targeted Mitsubishi as one of the largest exploiters of the economy and forests of the Pacific Northwest. Three climbers rappelled off the side of the ship that was loaded with nearly five million board feet of raw logs destined for processing overseas, and hung a 60-foot banner reading: "Protect our Forests! Stop Raw Log

Exports! Boycott Mitsubishi!" Two activists also locked to the cranes while two others locked to the ship's crows nest. It took the police all day to remove the protesters. Each activist was originally held four days in jail on \$25,000 bail.

The exporting of raw logs and woodchips is one of the main causes of job loss in the timber industry. According to a 1990 report by the Washington Department of Employment Security, every million board feet of lumber shipped overseas takes seven direct jobs and 14 more indirect jobs with it. Based on these figures, the seven protesters were protecting the jobs of 105 US citizens. The logs are shipped to other regions, especially Southeast Asia, for processing into lumber, furniture, plywood, paper and other products.

As if exports weren't enough, Mitsubishi also trades in logs and runs destructive logging operations in Canada, Southeast Asia and the Amazon. An independent study done this year by the Environmental Investigation Agency found that Mitsubishi's global operations make it the world's worst destroyer of rainforests. One Mitsubishi-operated disposable chop-stick factory in British Columbia's temperate rainforest discards 85 percent of the trees it cuts down because the wood isn't white enough. Needless to say, Mitsubishi perpetrates brutal human rights violations, virtually engaging in cultural genocide, in its conquest of the Earth's great forests.

The felony anarchy and sabotage charge is a 1919 union-busting statute originally intended to punish the International Workers of the World (IWW) for acts of property destruction. It is interesting to note that the Super Rubin 7 avoided any damage to property and that this was one of the same laws used in attempting to divide and conquer the IWW in the teens and early twenties. What's more, the activists were not found guilty of misdemeanor criminal trespass, the usual charges leveled against civil disobedience protesters. Based on this contradictory finding, and other trial factors, the defendants plan to appeal the verdict. It seems as though even the Cowlitz county public defense attorneys realize the conspiracy here as every one of them stood up during the final statements (before sentencing) and said that they were "proud of what their clients had done," and that they had never before made such a statement in court for a defendant.

Police dogs and water cannons didn't stop the civil rights movement. Tear gas didn't stop the anti-Vietnam War movement. This trial will not stop the movement to defend our forests. The Super Rubin 7 intend to fight for justice even when faced with the consequences of this felony conviction.

For more information or to send much-needed financial support to the Super Rubin 7 contact RAN at 221 Pine St., Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94104; (415) 398-4404; e-mail: rainforest@ran.org.

FEDS INDICT DELYLA WILSON

By STAN AND DELYLA WILSON

In a surprise move, the Federal Justice Department served Earth First! Bison Action Group (BAG) co-founder Delyla Wilson with two indictments. A grand jury handed down the indictments nearly four months after her arrest on July 13, 1997, in Gardiner, Montana. Delyla has been charged with two federal counts of Assault on a Congressional, Cabinet, or Supreme Court Member for dumping bison entrails on a table in front of Senators Conrad Burns and Max Baucus and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. The charges have been filed on behalf of Burns and Glickman—apparently Max Baucus doesn't want to play. Montana has already charged Delyla with one count of disorderly conduct and one count of misdemeanor assault for splashing bison entrails on Montana's Governor, Marc Racicot. While four months have passed since her arrest, it is interesting to note that it had been only two weeks since Delyla and her family returned from organizing further resistance to Montana's and Yellowstone Park's annual bison slaughter at the Round River Rendezvous in Wisconsin!

Delyla has been active in the bison issue since 1989, when she was first arrested for direct action against the then state sanctioned bison "hunt." In 1996, she and others formed the Bozeman based Bison Action Group which quickly became known as Governor Racicot's "harshest critics." Using letter writing campaigns,

public protests and press conferences with state and federal officials, BAG successfully elevated the level of debate and drew national attention to the bison's plight.

On March 23, 1997, at a public meeting in Gardiner, Delyla used her public comment period to place the real issue—dead bison—in front of the Montana congressional delegation and Secretary Glickman who had stated that he wanted to get a "better look" at the issue. When Delyla's bucket of guts hit the table, that's exactly what they received. Delyla's action attracted interest from across the world, bringing negative attention to both Montana and Yellowstone Park. As a result of the public's new perception of the park, tourism is down—a fact even admitted by park officials. The state of Montana and the feds are now frenzied over the controversy. Even Conrad "I just sat there like a dummy" Burns has introduced a bill in the US Senate that will keep Montana from killing bison.

Not content with Montana's prosecution attempts and Delyla's continued organizing, the Justice Department has intervened. On August 13, 1997, Delyla will make her initial appearance in US District Court in Billings, Montana. Seven days later she will be tried by the State of Montana in Livingston. Delyla is currently seeking an attorney to handle her federal case and is carrying on with her duties as a mother, wife and activist. She needs all our support as she takes on the feds. You can write to Delyla at POB 7326, Bozeman, Montana 59771.

Note: EF! BAG will be the organizers for the 1998 Activist Conference to be held in Bozeman, Montana. We look forward to hearing from organizers of previous conferences for helpful input.

Cove/Mallard Activists up to Jack Squat!

Logging at Cove/Mallard was held off last winter, thanks to an agreement that Idaho Sporting Congress attorney Marc Fink worked out. The agreement forbade the Forest Service and Shearer Lumber from logging until June 15 while waiting for the hearing for summary judgment. US District Court Judge Larry Boyle heard Fink's arguments in April and sat on it until June 11, when he decided that the Forest Service was doing everything just fine.

To get an idea of how asinine Boyle's decision brief was, his excuse for rejecting Fink's fisheries arguments was that although Chinook salmon were listed endangered in 1992, it only changed their legal status, not their biological status. In other words, Boyle gave the go-ahead to the Forest Service to continue allowing sediment from the sales to be dumped into the already degraded Little and Big Mallard creeks, even though they are both critical salmon habitat.

On July 7, the Ninth Circuit Court ruled against a temporary injunction. A hearing for the case will be in January. Meanwhile, there is nothing stopping the logging except us.

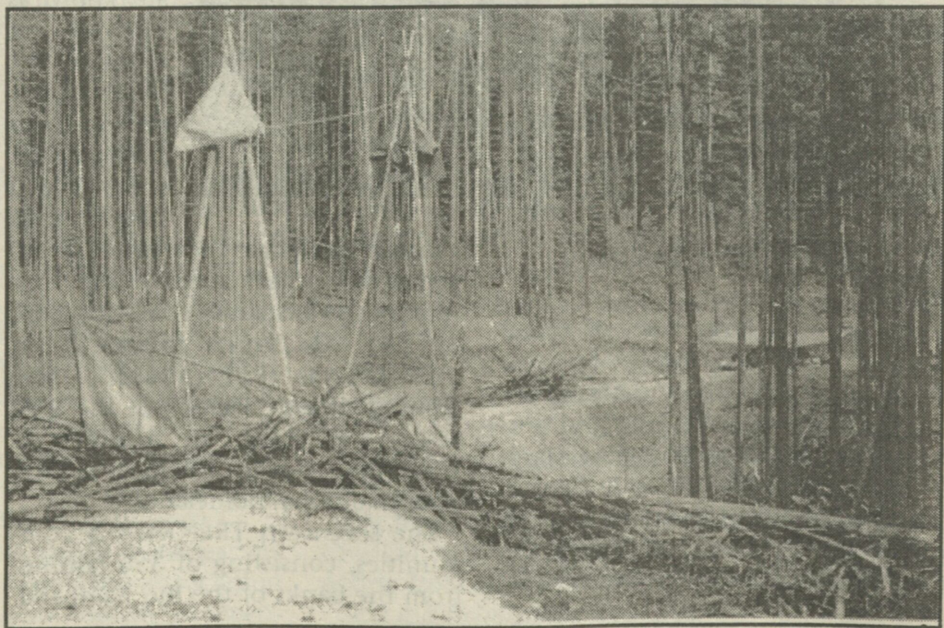
The loggers arrived on June 17, only to find four brave activists, two of whom were in tripods, blocking the Noble Road. They held the road until dawn the next day when the sitters were removed with a cherry picker and taken to the Ada County jail, where they were charged with obstructing a road and maintaining a structure.

Unlike past years, the Freddie's didn't slap an area closure on Noble road. This may be due to the overturned closure convictions from the Dirty Dozen action in 1995. The judge in that case ruled that the Forest Service was arbitrarily and without clear criteria denying people access to national forests.

Direct action continues; in early July, activists erected a double bipod on the Jack Creek Road to block anticipated logging in the Jack Timber Sale.

Since then, a dragon's roost and two sunken dragons have been added to fortify the double-bipod blockade. The free state has existed at this writing for 21 days. If your "keep it wild" self is looking for expression, come on out. Join us in Cove/Mallard and we'll stop the Noble timber sale, too.

For more information contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition at POB 8968 Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com and the Northern Rockies Preservation Project at POB 625, Boise, ID 83701; (208) 345-8077.



Busy bunnies bipod blockading for the big wild!

CANADA CONVICTS TRADITIONALISTS

BY MARK STODDART

In the summer of 1995, European oppression of native peoples once again proved volatile as members of the Shuswap Nation and their supporters defended themselves in an armed stand off with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) at Gustafsen lake, British Columbia. Two years later the trial, which has become the longest in Canadian history, has ended and the verdicts have been handed down. Soon sentences will be announced and the defendants will begin the appeal process.

The area known as Gustafsen Lake is located in the interior of British Columbia, near the town of 100-Mile House. It is Shuswap land which has never been ceded by treaty. Nonetheless, an American cattle rancher named Lyle James claims ownership of the land even though there has never been a legal survey and "James himself is vague about where his grazing rights begin, and the land he claims to own begins." It has been on this land that Shuswap traditionalists have held Sundance ceremonies since 1989, with no confrontation until 1995 when traditionalist Percy Rosette built a fence around the site to keep cattle from defecating there. On June 13, in response to the appearance of this fence, James and twelve of his cowboys showed up to serve the Sundancers with a handwritten "eviction notice." According to Gustafsen, defender spokesperson Splitting the Sky, "They pulled out rifles and threatened to kill (the Sundancers). One of them pulled out a bullwhip and said 'This is a good day to string up some red niggers!'"

At this point the RCMP moved in and began a COINTELPRO-like campaign of demonization, abuse of power and media manipulation. In fact, police videotape taken at Gustafsen Lake includes RCMP media liaison Peter Montague stating that "smear campaigns are our specialty." And another officer is asking "Anyone got a gun? It's for a peaceful resolution."

Other testimony included the RCMP's Captain Preston saying that he "fired two shots in front of the camp members to get their attention." He claims the shots were warning shots, that there is no criminal code provision that allows for warning shots and that a person can only shoot at someone in self-defense or in defense of others. While the RCMP told the media that hundreds of rounds were fired at one of their APCs (Armoured Personnel Carrier), forensic evidence revealed that only 26 bullets hit the "Bison" and "more that one officer agreed that some of the fire the Bisons took could have been RCMP 'friendly fire.'" Police officers also violated mutually agreed upon "no shoot zones."

Even after such damning evidence of police misconduct, the jury still delivered a verdict of 39 acquittals and 21 convictions. Many people believe that the judge effectively set up the verdict when he informed the jury, "You will probably have no difficulty concluding that the alleged offense occurred at the time and place alleged in the indictment."

Most visible among the defenders is Wolverine, a 66-year-old organic gardener and Shuswap traditionalist. Originally charged with attempted murder, he has been held for two years without bail. While acquitted of the attempted murder charge, he was found guilty of "mischief endangering life" and "interfering with arrest," for which the crown prosecutor is seeking an unusually long 25-year sentence.

It is worth noting that Wolverine was actually shooting at a 14-ton military APC while it attempted to run him and two unarmed defenders down. According to defender Trond Halle, the driver of the vehicle testified during the trial the he "would have done the same thing if an APC was chasing him."

Now we wait for the sentencing and the inevitable appeal based on Judge Josephson's jury tampering. In the meantime, Wolverine sits in a jail cell. In a March interview he eloquently described the incident which may keep him in jail for up to twenty-five years:

"That APC was coming at me. He was going to flatten me out I guess. Even in my old age, I must be getting faster at running. I don't know, my forefathers had to go after buffalo. They call these Bisons, I guess, the APC. What my forefathers had to contend with only had four legs—this one had eight. I guess that's what scared the hell outta me. What I'm charged for, the six attempts, that's what the APC had, six flat tires... so that's what I'm charged for. It tried to run me over. It missed me... I came out because people were being attacked. We were under attack. It started off with an explosion which the RCMP did not want to bring out. They attacked the camp. That's self-defense, automatic self-defense. Only a small group of people of 18



During the siege at Gustafsen Lake the RCMP police forces brought in Armored Personnel Carrier (APCs) tanks like this one, stating they were "necessary" at that time. The RCMP plans to purchase eight APCs from Mandela's South Africa for continued use against native traditionalists in Canada.

against 400. That's great odds. Even that wasn't enough; they were going to bring the regiment in."

The bottom line is that there needs to be third party adjudication for the Gustafsen Lake defenders and for all Native Nations. As Wolverine says, "We'll never get a fair hearing because you cannot get a fair hearing from people that are competing for the same land and resources. We've never had any justice in this country and I don't think we ever will." There is a call to write letters to both Prime Minister Jean Chretien and BC Premier Glen Clark demanding an inquiry into the RCMP's behavior during the standoff. Their addresses are:

Prime Minister Jean Chretien at room 309-S Centre Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6 Canada; (613) 992-4211, fax: (613) 941-6900; email: pm@pm.gc.ca; 'http://pm.gc.ca/english/pmo/e_corres.htm

BC Premier Glen Clark at Room 156 Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 Canada; (250) 380-6506, fax: (250) 387-0087.

Media interviews with Defenders can be arranged by calling Free the Wolverine spokespeople Bill Lightbown at 604-251-4949 or Splitting the Sky at 604-543-9661.

For more information contact The Settlers In Support of Indigenous Sovereignty at PO Box 8673, Victoria, BC Canada V8X 3S2; sisis@envirolink.org; http://kafka.uvic.ca/~vipirg/SISIS/SISmain.html

Wolves..... & Poodles

- A big Wild Rockies timber wolf to the four eco-warriors at Cove/Mallard who showed us what direct action is all about. Without the benefit of a big fancy affinity group, these four people set up two tripods, yes two, and held off the freddies for two days.

- A pack of howling wolves goes out to NAACP lawyer Kary Moss and activists in Flint Michigan for their recent victory over Genesee Power Co. for lead particle emissions and into the air, soil and water. The judge ordered a total freeze on granting of air-pollution permits and gave the state six months to revamp and resubmit its regulations.

- A big wolf of a different color goes out to those forestry workers who blockaded one of Greenpeace's ships from leaving Vancouver. The workers stated they are resentful of past blockades of log barge traffic. How's it feel to have the shoe on a different foot?

- A loud echoing howl goes out to those eco-super heroes down in the Southwest. A coalition of environmental groups won a preliminary injunction suspending all grazing allotments and timber sales that are not in compliance with recently amended forest plans. This injunction could shut down two thirds of all the timber sales and half of all the grazing allotments in the southwestern forests of the US.

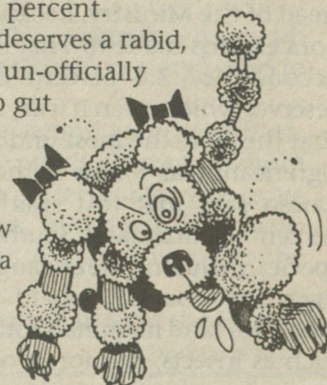


- California Senator Barbara Boxer receives a mangy, flea-ridden cur of a poodle for enthusiastically endorsing the Quincy Library Group's proposal to cut the wildlands of California's Lassen and Tahoe National Forests to ribbons. This proposal sets an alarming precedent for the wholesale destruction of the last of our great forests. Once renowned as one of the country's strongest environmental advocates, Boxer should now be regarded as nothing more than a standard, run of the mill, compromising, dirty dealing, sell out politician. Could it be that she's been doing it poodle-style with Al Gore?

- A frizzy, humid-day-when-the-Breck-girl-is-on-strike poodle goes out to Wendy Gramm (wife of Texas Senator Phil Gramm) who believes that cleaning up the air would increase melanoma (skin cancer), cost too much money and destroy the good ol' US of A. She was attacking the new ruling by the EPA concerning reducing air pollution by 10 percent.

- Once again caving into industry, Bruce Babbitt deserves a rabid, depraved poodle with toilet paper stuck to its ass for un-officially endorsing Senator Kempthorne's (Idaho) attempt to gut the Endangered Species Act.

- A big poo poo filled poodle goes out to the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In their infinite wisdom, they now feel it is ok for Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia to start selling ivory again. Ironically, one of the reasons given was that they should be rewarded for their past elephant conservation efforts.



Taking a Stand for Burma's Teak

BY JEFF SHAW

These are tough times for the people of Burma. Though the country is blessed with diverse and bountiful natural resources, the brutal military dictatorship which runs the country has prevented the population from realizing the benefits of their land, preferring to use state resources to buy arms. History is littered with examples of average people having the distinct misfortune of living near sites where corporations and governments can extract natural resources. As Burma prepares to enter the trading conglomerate Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), transnational corporations prepare to begin the looting. The most sought-after prize: the last great teak forests in the world.

The vast majority (about 80 percent) of the world's teak exports come from Burma's southern forests. Teak, which is indigenous to the favorable climate of Southeast Asia and India, has been virtually eradicated from the landscape. British colonialism ravaged India's lush forests and substantially depleted Thailand's supply as well. Thailand and Cambodia have both banned the export of unprocessed teak logs, making it virtually certain imported teak furniture originates in Burma. Rainforest Relief observed that these endangered trees are the "last primary teak forests" in the world and that teak which comes from "ecologically sound operations" constitutes less than 1 percent of total production. Tim Keating, Rainforest Relief's Executive Director, has expressed fears that the forest may well be destroyed in a few years. Though official sources in Burma's Ministry for Forestry deny any depletion in the last 35 years, independent observers disagree, putting the figures between "30 percent and decreasing rapidly" to a mere 20.

To put the devastation in other terms, when the United Nations Development Program studied Burmese forests in 1975, they found that the average destruction of forest was approximately 1,250 square kilometers per year, which is certainly enough to spark worry. By 1992, the Rainforest Action Network estimated that the average area of deforestation each year in Burma had increased to between 8,000 and 10,000 square kilometers, which means that Burma allows one of the highest national rates of forest destruction in the world.

Objections by the ruling junta would be laughable if the matter weren't so deadly serious. The Ministry of Forestry says that they aren't increasing deforestation while independent observers put the estimates at a threefold increase. Lt. General Chit Swe, head of the Ministry, backpedaled by claiming that concessions made to Thai logging companies only account for 2.6 percent of Burma's total forest reserves which, even if true, misses the major point—that these are the most undisturbed and ecologically significant teak forests in the world. Researcher Noel Rajesh says that this swath of forest supports 33 percent of mainland Southeast Asia's total known species, including the endangered Asian Elephant, the tiger, the clouded leopard and many others—120 species of land mammals total. As for other creatures, such as insects, this forest complex is the richest in terms of species diversity in mainland Southeast Asia.

Burma's Ruthless Dictatorship

A ruthless military junta that consistently ranks among the worst human rights abusers in the world has ruled the Burmese people for many years. Though the push for democracy has been strong, the backlash has been relentless. In 1988, thousands of pro-democracy protesters were gunned down in the street by the military. Even after the grassroots movements won what some thought was the ultimate victory—free elections in 1990—the military government refused to acknowledge the election results. This was no coincidence: the opposition party, Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), won over 80

percent of Burma's parliamentary seats. The military dictatorship, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), then instituted a number of repressive measures, including violence, curtailing speech and other freedoms, and arresting prominent opposition leaders like Suu Kyi.

They also stepped up logging. In 1992-'93, Burma extracted nearly one million cubic tons of teak logs through operations owned by or contracted by the state. Since then, it has only gotten worse—the SLORC has ex-

empted commercial forestry from taxation to provide even more incentive for corporations to harvest the last of the teak trees.

Clearing the Land of Forests and Ethnic Minorities

As if the massive deforestation and loss of species diversity weren't bad enough, the international demand for teak is causing a catastrophe for the insurgent Karen National Union (KNU), which has been fighting against the oppressive Burmese regime for decades. For about 50 years, the KNU has controlled extensive portions of the Thai-Burmese border, where much of the forest lies. As a part of a policy designed to "redevelop" the border region to make it more accessible to industry, the SLORC has launched a massive offensive to, in its own words, "annihilate" the Karen.

Why? Apart from the obvious desire to shore up its control of the nation, the SLORC also wants the Karen to stop protecting the forest. A fiercely spiritual people, the Karen ceremonially consecrate the trees which grow near them, and believe that cutting down an "ordained" tree is a sin akin to killing a monk. One of their first acts after seizing control of the border lands was to institute forest protection: for over ten years, the KNU has been managing and regulating its own 11 wildlife sanctuaries—all despite the pressure of revolutionary struggle. The sanctuaries cover an area of over 2,700 square kilometers.

All this is caused by the failure of transnational corporations to respect the wishes of the Burmese people and an (as yet) inadequate response by governments and social movements. Activists nationwide have been working for years to get the United States government to sanction and condemn the Burmese military regime, and while the

Clinton administration has finally acceded to these demands, the sanctions only prohibit future investment in Burma, still allowing currently existing development to take place. This does nothing for Burmese democracy or the world's teak forests. More radical steps are called for.

Holding the Line with Direct Action

In the interim, direct action is clearly necessary, and now is the appropriate time. In the wake of Rainforest Relief's Teak Action Week (July 1—July 7), activists nationwide are making statements with nonviolent civil disobedience.

Actions were carried out during that week in Wilmington, North Carolina, Bethesda, Maryland, and New York City, among other places. In Bethesda, Tim Keating of Rainforest Relief locked himself to the front doors of Scan Contemporary Furniture while a group of demonstrators unfurled protest banners. Keating announced that he was "seizing the contents of this store on behalf of the people of Burma" because "their teak trees have been stolen from them at gun point and illegally shipped to Thailand to be turned into furniture to end up here."

In North Carolina, Rick Spencer of the group EarthCulture chained himself to the sign of Dean Hardwoods, a direct and indirect teak importer, while others blocked the store entrance. Eventually Dean leaders agreed to meet with EarthCulture.

These actions have seen relatively little police response. No arrests occurred in North Carolina and none were reported in New York City either. Keating was placed under arrest and charged with disorderly conduct and trespass, but the charges seem likely to be dropped or reduced. The only charge likely to stick is a fine by the fire marshal for blocking the entrance to the store. And the actions got attention—in Bethesda, they got coverage from two Asian radio networks and a local ABC television affiliate, while the North Carolina action was covered by all Wilmington's local stations as well as their state affiliates; assorted radio and newspaper coverage was reported as well.

Selective Purchasing And Direct Action: Mutually Supporting Strategies

It is this kind of activity we need to emulate all over the country, combined with a strategy of pushing for selective purchasing agreements. Such agreements prohibit any business within a city, state or other locality's jurisdiction from doing business with the SLORC until they acknowledge the results of the 1990 elections. Corporations choosing to exploit Burmese teak resources would be forced to look elsewhere.

The point of such legislation is twofold: first, it makes it costly for corporations. If there is no market for teak, there's no profit to be made in pillaging the forest, and therefore no reason to continue with the policy. Second, it further isolates the SLORC. That's why pro-democracy leaders like Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr. Sein Win support the boycott of goods which originate in Burma—to cut off revenue is to pressure the dictatorship into negotiation. Teak is a critical focal point for a selective purchasing law because hardwood exports are the regime's second largest legal source of revenue. Besides, the policy of constructive engagement has already failed miserably—it has only cost us precious time, precious forest, and has ultimately been a failure for the vast majority of the Burmese people.

The fact that we can't depend on the federal government to keep up the pressure is only part of the reason we should push for a selective purchasing agreement at a local level. To do so sends a firm message that, regardless of national policy, local communities simply won't tolerate this kind of ethical lapse on the part of corporations. Twenty-one cities, including San Francisco and just recently New York, have implemented selective purchasing. It's time we joined them. The sooner we act, the less trees—and people—have to die.

If you would like to get involved, please call Jeff Shaw at (541) 338-4333; e-mail: shaw@lclark.edu.



Forced labor in the teak forests of southern Burma

photo from the Free Burma Coalition

Opponents Pave Amendment to End Logging Road Subsidy

BY YOUNGBLOOD-PETERSEN AND WALDER

During the debate on the Fiscal Year 1998 Interior Appropriations bill in the House of Representatives, Rep. John Porter (R-IL) and Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-MA) offered a bipartisan amendment which would have halted the subsidy for building logging access roads on national forest land and saved American taxpayers \$42 million. Cutting the purchaser credit program, a move already proposed by the Clinton Administration, would have saved an additional \$50 million in timber resources annually. A point to keep in mind is that the Porter/Kennedy amendment did NOT affect the Forest Service road maintenance budget. The amendment only prevented a taxpayer subsidy of NEW logging roads. As a bit of historical perspective, last July (1996) the House of Representatives voted 211-210 to approve a similar amendment to the FY 1997 Interior Appropriations bill. The bipartisan amendment was offered by Reps. Porter and Kennedy, among others. The next day opponents forced a revote under a technicality and were able to bring it down on a 211 to 211 tie.

As a brief explanation on how this subsidy works, logging roads are built on National Forest land with taxpayer funds so logging companies can access public trees for timber. The roads are either built by the government as a direct taxpayer expense or by logging companies which are then awarded a "purchaser credit" whereby the timber companies are reimbursed with public trees to log. In either case, timber companies are subsidized by taxpayers who pick up the tab for activities that should be included in these companies' business expenses. The purchaser credits for each timber sale are estimated by the Forest Service, based on the cost it would be for the agency to build the road. Agency costs are often more expensive than industry costs, since the Forest Service has to contract out for road construction while most large timber companies have their own road building departments. In addition to the overestimation of costs, the Forest Service also includes 12 percent for overhead and 10 percent for profit. Independent analyses estimate that Forest Service cost estimates average 30 percent over the actual cost of building the road. But the timber industry gets the full amount estimated—a direct subsidy to the industry.

No money ever changes hands in the purchaser road credit (PRC) game. The money is put directly in an account which is used to pay for the trees that the industry then cuts. But the money can be used on any timber sale in the same forest as the road construction. This allows the industry to buy trees from anywhere in a forest with profits from roads built elsewhere. The industry does not receive extra money if the road costs more than the trees. There is a base price that they have to pay to the Forest Service on each sale, so at times some PRCs are invalidated.

The amendment this year was controversial and another close vote was expected. The amendment passed by a vote of 246 to 179, due in part to activist organizing by the Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads, Friends of the Earth, Western Ancient Forest Campaign and other groups. Editorials in support of the amendment in papers across the country (*The Seattle Times*, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, *The Missoulian*), plus a major article on forest roads in *The New York Times*, also weighed in favor.

However, moments after the vote, Representative Norm Dicks (D-WA) offered a compromise amendment that restored \$25 million in purchaser road credits and \$37 million in direct appropriations. The Dicks amendment passed 211 to 209. So after all was said and done, Congress continued to fund road-

building as usual. The watered down version of the amendment was scheduled to be debated in the Senate as this was written. There is still some hope for a decent (relative term) compromise, as Sen. Richard Bryan (D-NV) announced plans to offer an amendment in the Senate to cut subsidies for logging roads similar to the Porter/Kennedy amendment.



But all you anti-road activists should keep something in mind about the relative utility of the Porter/Kennedy, Dicks and Bryan amendments. They will not stop road construction on national forest lands. First, the proposal only focuses on logging roads and allows road construction to continue for activities such as recreation. In addition, road funding remains possible through two other avenues. The infamous salvage logging slush fund can be used to pay for the administration of road construction in association with salvage sales. It can't be used for the construction itself, but the roads constructed are typically designed by the Forest Service, especially if they are paid for with PRCs. In addition to the problems with off-budget funds like the salvage fund, a more insidious road problem plagues our national forest—temporary roads.

Almost all temporary roads are built to access

timber sales, and believe it or not, the timber industry pays for these roads themselves. So: a) we cannot stop funding them by fighting congressional appropriations; and b) we cannot tell them how or how not to construct them. Temporary roads have almost no design standards. The Forest Service timber sale administrator and the timber company building the road agree mutually to the locations of temporary roads. The agency also designates the clearing width for the road. No other design standards are allowed on temporary roads except those that might be implemented by the state like best management practices (BMPs). BMPs however, are not enforceable. They are voluntary regulations. If the Forest Service decides that a temporary road is going to be constructed in a sensitive area, then they can attach separate design provisions as part of the contract. Then the road is upgraded to a "specified short-term road" and it also therefore qualifies for PRCs.

The Forest Service does not keep track of temporary roads because they are not a part of the permanent forest transportation system. So temporary roads are not even counted in the 377,000 miles of roads that the Forest Service acknowledges it has on its land. And temporary roads often fail to be closed as required by the National Forest Management Act.

So even though we are strong supporters of the original Porter/Kennedy amendment, we recognize that it is not a panacea for the problems caused by roads in wildland ecosystems. Road building on our national forests and other public lands has run rampant for long enough. Let's expand the Zero Cut message: Not one more mile of road on national forests!

For more information on fighting temporary roads and other road issues, contact the:

Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads (Wildlands CPR) POB 7516 Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 543-9551; wildlandscpr@wildrockies.org, www.wildrockies.org/wildcpr.

Tom Youngblood-Petersen is the Development Director of Wildlands CPR. Bethany Walder is the Executive Director. Wildlands CPR seeks the protection and recovery of large scale wilderness and biodiversity by recreating an interconnected network of roadless public wildlands.

Ohio's Virgin Forest

ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

BY DIANNE BURNHAM

Dysart Woods in Belmont County, Ohio is making national news. For many years farmers have claimed that longwall mines have been responsible for the decline of their natural water resources: ground water, streams, springs and wells. Longwalling is a type of coal mining in which the whole seam is removed as the working faces are advanced, the place of the excavated coal being filled in with rubbish, or by the roof caving in. Despite their complaints, Ohio's Department of Natural Resources Division of Mines and Reclamation rubber stamps every mine application.

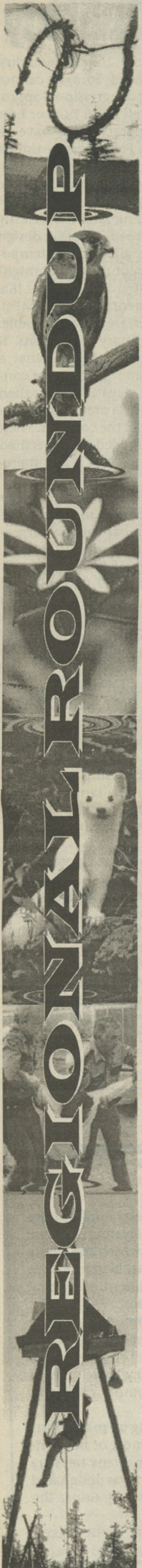
The Division of Mines and Reclamation now also insists that the farmers must present "scientific evidence of vegetative stress from the loss of ground water" if they are ever to deny a mine permit application.

Now lines are being drawn in the sand. Local people are summoning their energy together with the help of ecologists to prepare to defend Dysart Woods from Ohio Valley Coal Company's plan to longwall within the Dysart watershed.

Threatened with the enforcement of the Clean Air Act, Ohio Valley Coal is stepping up their efforts to suck every last ounce of high sulfur coal from the coal seam that runs under most of Belmont County. In their path lies a 50-acre ancient forest within a 455-acre nature preserve. Many trees are 400 years old and the largest poplar tree in Ohio resides quietly among them. Dysart was designated a National Natural Landmark by the Department of Interior in 1966 and is currently under the ownership and stewardship of Ohio University.

Coal mining, or the removal of the carboniferous forest that was previously here, is the biggest

continued on page 27



Dineh Resistance Continues

Less than fifteen traditional Dineh (Navajo) families are holding out on the land around Black Mesa, ancient home to the Dineh and Hopi. On March 31, 1997, the deadline passed for signing the Accommodation Agreement which would "allow" Dineh residents to remain on their land for 75 additional years under highly restrictive conditions. The traditional Dineh are being coerced to relocate to make way for Peabody Western Coal Company's plans to mine the land around Black Mesa. Wrongful arrests continue as Peabody attempts to rob natives of their land and way of life. Here are two of their stories.

Mabel Benally and her family live directly adjacent to Peabody Western's Black Mesa coal strip mine. Her family has lived on this land for generations; she remembers well what it was like before the coal mine came. "We were happy before the mine came. You could see the air around you and smell the earth. There was no dust and no black smoke from the mining. It was peaceful. There were springs and water from all over. Now they're gone. Now there is contaminated water, it's the only thing that's running now." One of her daughters now suffers from serious respiratory problems, as do many of her sheep. Many acres of her traditional grazing lands have been destroyed by the mine.

On May 30, 1997, Peabody's bulldozers began to demolish 19 more acres. Mabel, her husband, and two of their daughters opposed the destruction of this land by standing firm in the face of the bulldozers. They were eventually handcuffed by Navajo police and removed from the scene and Peabody proceeded to bulldoze the land.

The Benallys spent 19 hours in jail. While in custody Lucille Benally, one of Mabel's daughters, suffered an epileptic seizure. The Navajo authorities administered a medicine that she was allergic to. After she had a violent reaction to the drugs, the family was released. Peabody spokesperson, Beth Ulinger, claimed that "we believe that the tribal police handled the situation professionally, as well as in a manner that protected the safety of everyone involved."

Lawrence Altsisi lives in his ceremonial hogan on Black Mesa where his family has lived for generations. While other members of his family accepted relocation in 1988, Lawrence never signed away his hogan on the Hopi Partitioned Land.

On June 11, 1997, government agents came to Lawrence's home

to impound his sheep. Chris Interpreter, Lawrence's nephew, stood in front of the corral and told the Rangers that they could not take his family's livestock. He was eventually handcuffed and dragged off. The sheep were seized, and Lawrence's vehicle was impounded. Chris now awaits his court date on charges of trespassing and resisting arrest. Three of Lawrence's non-native guests, one of whom was only 17, witnessed the incident and stayed at the homesite in protest. The three were charged with disorderly conduct and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Interestingly, they were not charged with trespassing.

Chris Interpreter, outraged at the injustice and corruption of the federal and tribal governments, issued this statement: "Greed closed the doors of communication and morality towards both tribes, as the

US government encourages the struggle between the tribes. They want us to fight. They need us to fight because the pulse of America and the American mainstream mindset depend on our downfall ... A representative of the Navajo Tribe also told my uncle [Lawrence] that they would do everything in their power to help my family out with the livestock impoundment fees. ... They've done nothing for the people but feed them lies and let their own pockets grow fatter. I will apologize to the Navajo Tribe when they really do something to help my family and other families keep

the sacred essence of our way of life. Until then I will pray with faith and hope that both tribes awaken from corruption and show the true beauty of tradition from their heart and soul."

Lawrence was later permitted to retrieve his sheep and goats for \$14 per head and paid \$152 for the return of his vehicle. The fact that he could buy back the sheep illustrates that the impoundment process serves no other purpose than extortion and harassment.

As of now, there is still an ongoing need for financial support and solid volunteers to go to Black Mesa. Educate yourself; work through a local or regional support group in your area before going down. If you've already been there, we need you. If you know people who'd be helpful, they don't need to be hard-core activists—egos stay home! Call (360) 352-8526 and Media Island will put you in touch with people in your area. For more information, check out www.primenet.com/~dineh/

—MEDIA ISLAND INTERNATIONAL



Chris Interpreter dragged off his land by Hopi Rangers

photo by Fred Waters

Closing the Door on Chipmills

BY ORIN LANGELE

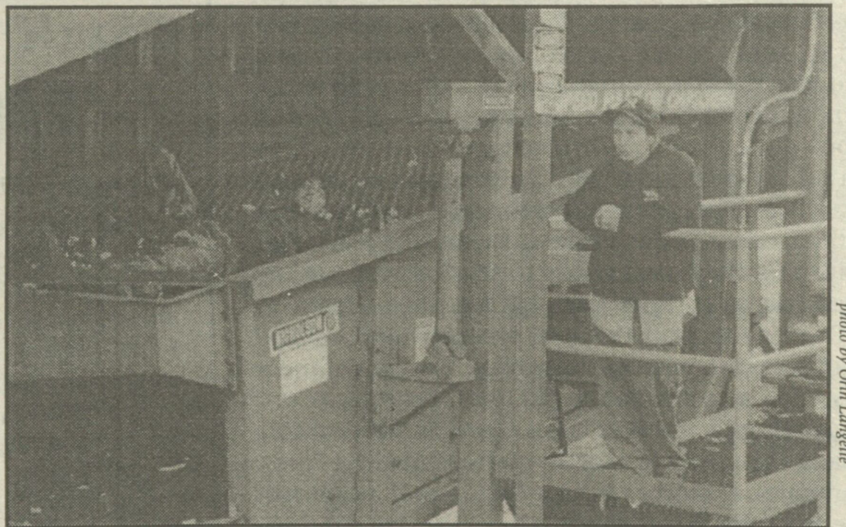
At 5 a.m. on June 16, the Native Forest Network, Northeast Ecological Defenders (NEED) and Earth First! occupied R & J Chipping Enterprises in Shelburne, New Hampshire. One protester, Paul White, locked himself to a woodchip shaker with a Kryptonite lock, effectively shutting down business as usual. The action was part of an international campaign by the Native Forest Council to boycott woodchipping. Two climbers dropped a banner reading "NATIVE FORESTS NOT WOOD CHIPS" from the operations headquarters as other demonstrators climbed atop huge piles of logs awaiting chipping. White unlocked himself and was arrested after log-truck drivers threatened to remove the lock with a sledgehammer.

A Native Forest Council statement distributed during the action read: "Chipmills reduce forests to their lowest denominator. They decimate living trees to make paper and energy which we do not need. The appetite of a chipmill exceeds the resources of the surrounding land. Once it has had its fill of our forests, it moves on to feed somewhere else. We need to stop allowing industry into our backyards—where they make a buck and we lose our lands and our jobs."

We came to R & J Chipping Enterprises to say NO MORE CHIPMILLS. We want to shut down existing chipmills until a region-wide Environmental Impact Study is done by the Environmental Protection Agency to assess the cumulative effect chipmills have on our bioregions. As forestry technology becomes more advanced, fewer people are required to harvest more and more forests. Jobs that used to feed families are now done by machines, and the profits from these advances gets concentrated in the hands of corporate elites.

This action was the first of many planned throughout the

Northeast. The Native Forest Network's Third Annual Northeast Spring Summit (May 16-18) saw the formation of a Northeast-wide campaign against neoliberalism using the multinational timber industry as the example through which to make the message heard.



Paul White locked to woodchip shaker

photo by Orin Langelie

A number of forest actions are planned throughout the summer and fall in Vermont, Maine and Quebec that are designed to tie all of the respective issues together.

For more information contact the Native Forest Network at Eastern North American Resource Center, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571, fax (802) 863-2532; e-mail: nfena@igc.apc.org; or Native Forest Network, Gulf of Maine, RR2, Box 370, Verona Island, ME 04416; (207) 469-2552, fax (207) 469-2116; e-mail: nfn@telplus.net.

COASTAL DEVELOPMENT THREATENS SNAKES AND FROGS

BY BEVERLY CHERNER

Construction of a recreational vehicle park and campground threatens to destroy some of the last remaining populations of the San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog. The Coastside Habitat Coalition (CHC), a grassroots organization of coastal protection advocates, is taking legal action to halt construction at Cascade Ranch in San Mateo County. Activists are also preparing for nonviolent direct action.

The development is planned for a 430-acre parcel bordering Cascade Ranch State Park and Año Nuevo State Reserve. The campground and RV park are just the beginning. Development partners Prime Property Capital and Paul Gould, Inc. have received permits to build 210 camping units, a health spa, two lodges with 138 guest suites, a restaurant, five gymnasiums, three swimming pools, three tennis courts, and various other abominations. Never mind that San Mateo County voters have overwhelmingly approved three recent coastal-protection initiatives. The completed development would be the largest town on the coast between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz, a distance of 52 miles.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has documented a population of red-legged frogs at the site. The frog was listed as a threatened species after the development had been approved. However, the agency has taken no action to halt the project. At press time, attorneys for the CHC were seeking a temporary restraining order, charging violations of the Endangered Species Act.

The frog is an essential food source for the endangered San Francisco garter snake, known to exist only in San Mateo County. In its 1985 recovery plan for the snake, the USFWS determined that at least 10 populations are necessary for its survival; in a 1995 report, the agency identified only six populations. Two of these are near the development site at adjacent Cascade Ranch State Park and at Año Nuevo. Local residents have seen at least two snakes on or near the construction site.

The Cascade Ranch deal was engineered in the 1980s by several private and governmental interests. The Trust for Public Land bought the parcel, supposedly for preservation, but ultimately sold it to Paul Gould, Inc. instead. Because of insufficient water on-site for large-scale development, the state allocated nearly all the water rights from the adjacent Cascade Ranch State Park. The California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency, loaned Paul Gould, Inc. a million dollars to complete the deal.

Environmental activists opposed the project aggressively, driving Paul Gould, Inc. into bankruptcy. In 1996, San Francisco-based Prime Property Capital bought into the development and resurrected it. The new owners underestimate the tenacity of coastal protection activists.

The CHC desperately needs funds to continue litigation to protect habitat both at Cascade Ranch and at another site threatened by development near the San Francisco International Airport. Construction at Cascade Ranch could begin any time. Get on our phone tree to do direct action or to offer support handling publicity, fundraising, food, etc.

The CHC is planning to set up information pickets and a hotel boycott in the San Francisco Area targeting buildings owned by Prime Property Capital and Joie de Vivre Hotels.

Contact the CHC at POB 49, San Gregorio, CA 94074; (415) 726-0565, fax (415) 712-1845; e-mail: sangregoro@aol.com.

Beverly Cherner is a long-time Earth First! activist who likes to spend her time in the redwoods playing banjo for the banana slugs and other children of the forest.

Grizzly Bear Reintroduction Rotten

BY ALLIANCE FOR THE WILD ROCKIES

According to sources in the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on grizzly bear reintroduction to the Salmon-Selway-Bitterroot region of central Idaho and western Montana will soon be mailed out from Missoula. The USFWS prefers the timber-oriented plan proposed by the Resource Organization on Timber Supply (ROTS) and other forest pillagers, only with this new twist: They plan on taking grizzly bears from the Yellowstone and Glacier Park/Bob Marshall Wilderness Areas for the reintroduction.

Alternative 1 of the ROTS plan would remove legal protection for these bears and designate them as "experimental, non-essential." Yes, it's as bad as it sounds. Habitat would be left open to plunder and the US Forest Service would be free to play its favorite game in bear habitat: selling timber, permitting mines, building roads and grazing cattle. It's important when we communicate grizzly bears exist in less than one percent literally at the brink of extinction. Re- and subjecting them to management by is a prescription for disaster. Idaho, but reproductive len from the threatened tinal Divide popu- ther risk. It's one step back for the grizzly. It's



What can you do? Christopher Servheen, Fish and Wildlife Service, 59806. Tell him that you support Alternative 4, the option submitted by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Salmon-Selway Grizzly Coalition. It maintains full legal protection for all grizzlies under the Endangered Species Act, whether reintroduced or local. It encompasses the entire Greater Salmon-Selway-Bitterroot ecosystem and prohibits logging and roadbuilding within grizzly habitat. Alternative 4 calls for the removal of 3,500 miles of logging roads and the restoration of a habitat corridor to allow grizzly movement throughout the area. Also, urge that Alternative 4 be changed to prohibit relocation of grizzlies for reintroduction to Idaho.

Hearings are scheduled for the following locations and dates: Hamilton, Montana and Salmon, Idaho on August 27; Missoula, Montana and Lewiston, Idaho on August 28; Helena, Montana and Boise, Idaho on August 29. Public comments will be accepted until October 9, 1997. We do not yet know the format of the hearings, but it's time for everyone concerned about the fate of the grizzly bear to get involved.

Please mark your calendars now and stay posted for further alerts. Contact the Alliance for the Wild Rockies at: awr@wildrockies.org for more information or call the following numbers: Missoula office (Mike Bader), (406) 721-5420; Boise office (Don Smith), (208) 386-9014; Bozeman office (Betsy Gaines), (406) 586-6888.

Defending the Prairie

BY NICOLE J. ROSMARINO

On the weekend of July 5-6, members of Rocky Mountain Animal Defense (RMAD) and the Great Plains Restoration Council (GPRC) made a stand for the prairie. Two separate groups intervened in a prairie dog hunt, placing themselves between shooters and their targets. After interrupting the killing, they were arrested on charges ranging from Criminal Trespass, Intentional Interference with a Lawful Hunt, Resisting Arrest and Conspiracy for their actions.

The real criminals were the perverse individuals who get stimulated by ecocide and "red mist"—a prairie dog exploding from the impact of a high-powered rifle.

The GPRC and RMAD were forced to take action because the end is near for the prairie dog and the prairie ecosystem they sustain. Prairie dogs are at a tiny fraction of their historical population; their numbers have dropped from 5 billion individuals in the days when the bison roamed, to less than one or two million individuals today. Contrary to what the Fish and Wildlife Service might say, this number is minuscule, and should indicate the urgency of the situation.

Prairie dog population levels should not be measured by counting individuals. A lone prairie dog cannot perform the functions of a colony—providing a sustainable prey base, aerating the soil, invigorating vegetation, channeling runoff to the water table, and providing shelter for birds, rodents and reptiles. Therefore, what should be counted is the number of prairie dog colonies that are healthy, can sustain viable populations and are close enough to other healthy, non-fragmented colonies to allow migration and genetic mixing. Part of any realistic definition of a healthy prairie dog colony is its accessibility to foxes, coyotes, badgers, raptors and other predators.

Scientists and prairie activists alike know that upwards of 150 vertebrate species depend on the prairie dog, either for the habitat they create or as a prey base.

Declining species associated with prairie dogs include the mountain plover, ferruginous hawk, burrowing owl and swift fox. Of special note is the black-footed ferret, one of the rarest mammals in the world, whose listing as endangered under the ESA can be attributed to declining prairie dog populations, as prairie dogs comprise most of a black-footed ferret's diet.

Do prairie dog shooters care? Not a bit. Their aim is eradication. These guys want to wipe prairie dogs off the map, and they sure as hell don't care if they destroy every associate species in the process. They want a West populated with commercial animals—sheep and cattle. They want a West that's a meat machine. And, as you could guess, it's activists, not policy-makers who are standing in their way.

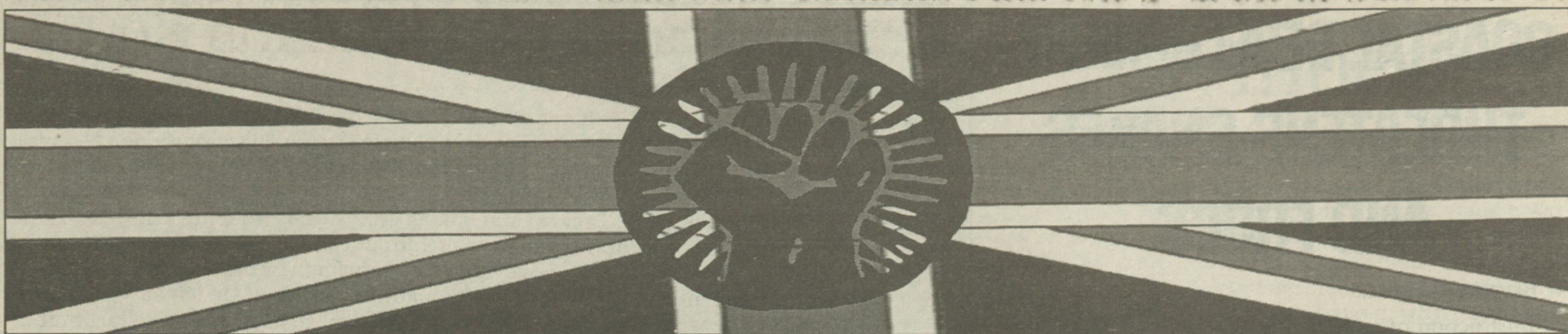
It's time to shut the killers down. It's time to stand up (or lock down) for the prairie dog and the prairie. Contact RMAD at (303) 449-4422 or GPRC at (719) 544-2346 for more information and to provide support, in the form of your money, time or good will.

Nicole J. Rosmarino is a "pathological trespasser" and co-director of Rocky Mountain Animal Defense.



A black-tailed prairie dog

photo by Jill Bielawski



The Raging Riff-Raff of Merry England

BY AL DECKER

The culture of ecological and social resistance is thriving in the United Kingdom. This article focuses primarily on England, though much of the same can be said of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Earth First! in the UK today seems similar to American EF! of the early eighties: a young movement, full of fire, battling mainstream groups over the sabotage issue, at times totally unorganized and dysfunctional, yet managing to pull off brilliant actions, pushing the boundaries on what is acceptable and, perhaps most importantly, spreading the good news abroad. For instance, the amazing Young Lions EF! group from South Africa got turned on to EF! when three of them were political refugees in England during Apartheid. Radical eco-activists from countries including Germany, Finland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Sweden, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, Poland, Russia, Italy, Greece and Sudan have come to learn from the movement in the UK and taken what they learned back to their bioregions. Britain has certainly sent its fair share of resistance strategies and innovative road-blockading techniques over to the US and Canada, including inspiration for North American cells of Hunt Saboteurs, the Earth Liberation Front, and the Animal Liberation Front.

One difference between Britain and North America is that fewer people here call themselves "Earth Firsters," and EF! groups don't really conduct campaigns as such, but more often provide a forum for people to get involved in a variety of actions. British EF! also has a deeper involvement in social justice issues and class analysis, due to the long and hard history of its class-based society, as well as the near complete lack of British wilderness to defend.

Road (and Infrastructure) Wars

The British anti-roads movement has met with staggering success. Since the first major campaign at Twyford Down in 1992, the Department of Transport has seen each proposed road protested, blockaded, sabotaged and otherwise deterred. The recent eviction of the Fairmile camp, considered the University of Road Protests, may signal the end of a road wars era. Yet the movement has won a limited victory, with several hundred road schemes canceled and widespread public support for a ban on new roads. Many activists are looking to move in new directions; one told me that open-cast mining protests will be the next major focus; another said industrial transport, including airports and railroads. Yet it's likely that the movement will challenge the entire industrial infrastructure (including shopping malls, golf courses, urban sprawl and other nefarious forms of development). The current campaign against the expansion of the Manchester Airport reflects this.

The usual rad, basecamp riff-raff, joined by gray-haired local residents, are putting up one hell of a fight to save a lovely area of woodland set to be clear-cut, filled and paved into a runway. The tunnelers, straight out of Tolkien, are fiendishly digging shafts and wickedly-clever fortifications. Fifty feet up a cliff wall overlooking a classic British countryside stream, a rappel line can be seen hanging down to a horizontal tunnel, reminiscent of an Anasazi cliff dwelling.

Though collapse is possible, UK activists have urged me to encourage Americans and Canadians to take tunnels up as a blockading technique. (Indeed, it took seven days for a professional spelunking crew

to remove the tunnelers at Fairmile.) The scene at Manchester during Easter weekend was totally surreal. On a Saturday morning, dawn's rosy fingertips illuminated a lovely site; the barbed-wire fence surrounding the site had been seriously trashed. Base campers were openly and gleefully talking about the next three nights of holiday monkey wrenching festivities. Others were using sections of liberated fence to build fortifications for tunnels, camps and tree forts, and otherwise making themselves at home. The airport has to go through lengthy court proceedings to remove each individual squatter, even though they are located on private property.

Opposition to mining has really kicked off here in the last couple of years as reflected by a recent well-publicized EF! action in Wales against an open-cast mine (or strip-mine). The state reacted in advance by hassling local organizers (to the point where most didn't even show up for the action) and basically setting up a military occupation of the site: 200 riot troops, 150 police, Special Branch officers (similar to the FBI), the Royal Marines, four miles of razor wire fencing, road blocks; shit, they even welded down the manhole covers! So, instead of heading off to an ugly head-bashing, the gathered activists out-bluffed the coppers and instead went to a nearby mining site, the scene of major actions over the last year. A "virtual" action at the port was achieved (it was reported that the police costs for the weekend were over \$300,000) with massive media, and a solid rampage at the mine ensued, shutting down work for the day. A number of machines were allegedly damaged, and the corporation claimed that it had to lay off 20 workers as a result.

A humorous situation occurred when an EF! activist from abroad was arrested and gave the name of Edward Abbey to the Old Bill (police). A Special Branch agent told the local cops at the jail that Edward Abbey is the founder of Earth First! and a writer of eco-terrorism manuals, which provided some comic relief when they removed him from his cell into isolation, saying they feared for the safety of the other inmates. Needless to say, when they discovered Edward Abbey had died a decade ago and their big chance at catching an international terrorist disappeared, they weren't very amused.

Monkeywrenching in the UK

An editor of the *EF! Journal* once gave a speech at a conference in Eugene advocating public monkey-wrenching. The EF! movement in Britain is evolving towards that, the most spectacular example being the recent Newbury Rampage detailed in the most recent *Journal*. A thousand people broke through fences and stormed a construction site, dismantling heavy equipment to the ¡TCHKUNG!-esque beat of pixies drumming on Earth-raping machines (music plays a big part in British festivals, actions and riots). Flames of elfin glee flickered up into a fog-shrouded night sky, as cops and security watched helplessly. In a similar vein, at an EF! National Action in 1995, hundreds of activists stormed an open-cast mine and wrenched the place up (even the train tracks fell apart and disappeared), causing an estimated \$400,000 worth of damage and shutting the place down for days.

EF! UK activists are also more angry and less polite during office occupations. Following the EF! anti-open cast action mentioned above, a raid on the Under-Sheriff's office turned into quite a me-

lee, with creme pies flying all over the place and files rearranged and liberated.

Reclaim the Streets

This London-based group has held three major street parties and several other actions during the last couple of years, and already Reclaim the Streets ideas have spread throughout Britain and abroad. A front page story in the *EF! Journal* (September-October '96) described last summer's "Street Party '96: A Festival of Resistance," which promoted the view that, "Ultimately it is in the streets that power must be dissolved: for the streets where daily life is endured, suffered and eroded, and where power is confronted and fought, must be turned into the domain where daily life is enjoyed, created and nourished." Yes, and that is certainly what happened when 8,000 people partied on the M41 motorway while pneumatic drills tore up the concrete beneath the skirts of 30' Victorian Lady streetwalkers. Creative and ambitious might be good adjectives to describe the group.

Hunt Saboteurs

The Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA) has been active for 30 years, disrupting hunts and educating the public about cruel bloodsports. All over the British Isles, hunts are constantly disrupted by dedicated, well-organized and well-funded sabs. The HSA produces an excellent quarterly journal, entitled *Howl*, with info that would be useful to activists in North America, as well as publish an updated tactics booklet. After many years of hard work, it seems clear that the days of legal fox hunting are numbered.

Great British Publications:

• *Do or Die: Voices of Earth First!*

The scurrilous diatribe against industrial culture entitled *Do or Die* (DoD) has roughly the same publishing schedule as *Live Wild or Die* (LWOD), which is to say, infrequent.

• *The EF! Action Update*

The *EF! Action Update*, published continuously since 1991, is definitely what it purports to be: updates on actions and happenings both in the UK and abroad. It shares the same radical cutting edge of the wedge as *DoD* and serves to put people from many different campaigns and movements in touch with each other.

• *Green Anarchist*

"For the Destruction of Civilization," which boldly appears in the *Green Anarchist* (GA) masthead, aptly describes where the Oxford green anarchists are coming from. Perhaps no other publication I've ever come across elicits a reaction like GA. Originally a peacenik newsletter, it evolved into more of anti-industrial/anarcho paper in the late eighties and early nineties and ultimately developed its full-on philosophy under the current editorship.

People seem to either love or hate GA. Yet, even those who claim to be ambivalent about it often read it compulsively to check out the eco-defense, animal liberation and community resistance diaries. These world-wide diaries list various actions, demos, blockades, monkeywrenching, arson, sabotage, acts of community resistance and also breakdown. From postal strikes to political bombings, they serve as a compilation of discontent.

The GA folks are extremely critical of what they consider to be a pathetic response by American activists to the Unabomber affair, and they are also skeptical of the *LWOD* #6, which they consider tame,

continued on next page

DOWN BY LAW IN THE SPHYNX FREE STATE

BY TRILLIAM

During the night of June 1, as part of Cascadia's "Road Blockade Summer," a blockade made of logging debris was erected on road 2265 in the Detroit District of the Willamette National Forest to prevent the logging of fourteen units of the Sphynx timber sale. These cuts will fragment the formerly pristine Lynx Creek drainage which is corridor habitat between the Middle Santiam and Mount Jefferson Wilderness areas, severely compromising their genetic diversity. The cuts total about 400 acres that intrude into a 1,200 acre roadless area (one of the largest roadless areas in the Detroit District). These slopes also drain directly into the North Santiam River, the water supply for Oregon's capital city of Salem.

The blockade was the culmination of a three month long effort to stop the Sphynx sale. Our actions began in April when activists put their bodies in front of snow-plowing bulldozers. After the roads were opened we had a gate lockdown, a tripod, and erected giant barricades out of snow blocks. A rally for the masses culminated with the mayor of Salem denouncing the sale and calling for civil disobedience and ending with a public yarning of the trees. Cat-and-mouse shut down work for half the day on several occasions. College students cut class and put their lives on the line in an attempted highway blockade. Many people have hiked the area and experienced its beauty as well as the patches of devastation around it.

The lockdown, known affectionately as the "beaver hut" by the *federals*, was made almost entirely out of logging waste—left-behind logs, slash and old cable. This style of blockade is very economical, requiring only a lockbox as its only monetary expense. Vast quantities of tightly packed slash were the key to protecting the locked-down activist from painholds and other abuse. A few of the units had been entered in April and yarded over heavy snow so we were fortunate to have plentiful materials close at hand. Acrylic yarn tightened and reinforced the structure even more.

Blockaders celebrated June 4, a call to end a hundred years of logging on public lands in the same make-shift style. For lack of a banner and in hopeful anticipation of a media visit they wrote "ZERO CUT" in heavy rocks on the road which stubbed the toes of several frustrated Freddie's.

Over the eighteen days of the blockade folks came and went. Hats off to all who brought food and supplies to the blockade. Because of a road closure to motorized vehicles (except for Freddie's, loggers and hired goons) everything had to be hiked in at least two miles up challenging slopes. Thumbs down to "Access Consulting Group" (ACG), the private security company who worked hand-in-hand with the Forest Service and the purchaser, Frank Lumber, in monitoring the blockade. Another thumbs down to the Forest Service PR lackeys who came by for a "tour" ("and this is a *protester*, this is a *black bear*, this young man is what they call 'locked down'") Our old adversary Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Don Galbraith (aka "Frankie", aka "Twitchy") was back on the scene fresh from some action at China Left with more crazy antics. Especially memorable was when he discovered our makeshift refrigerator in a snowbank. He promptly raided it and made off with three pounds of cream cheese! We didn't discover it was missing until the next morning's bagel breakfast. When he came by again we called him on his theft. He could only mumble, "I would never eat your food."

The bust happened around 6:00 a.m. on the morning of June 19. The feds tried to keep valiant Air from locking down, but to no avail. After they cooled down a bit they handcuffed the twelve other activists they managed to round up near the blockade. At first they were told they were all arrested and would be going to Linn County Jail in Albany. But when people refused to give their names or otherwise cooperate negotiations quickly turned in our favor and the detainees were uncuffed. The county has been lax in prosecuting this past spring's activist arrestees due to recent cuts in funding that have taken the teeth out of most of the Freddie's threats.

It was funnier than hell watching about eight law enforcement personnel sweat while tearing down the "beaver hut" by hand. Sadly, it took them only two hours so we recommend with this style of block-

ade to pile up absolutely as much debris as humanly possible. It will be worth the hours of entertainment you may enjoy later on. Air received no pain compliance abuse and was out of jail by 5:00 p.m.

The Sphynx Free State unfortunately coincided with several other big events on the Cascadian calendar: the June 1 downtown tree sit in Eugene, the June 4 rallies to end logging on public lands, as well as the

China Left campaign to the south. While this provided a busy activist schedule for Westside folks, the energy to turn the Sphynx blockade into another Warner Creek was too diffused. At the very least, more labor to



The Beaver Hut!

build up the lockdown may have made the blockade more formidable to the *federals*. The human and material resources to "Warnerize" never came together.

They're still cutting Sphynx though, despite our long and sustained efforts. The North Santiam timber mob (Freres Lumber, Young & Morgan, Frank Lumber, Thomas Creek and their ilk), and their friends in the bureaucracy have never budged an inch in their plans for this place. This is a bitter struggle with no happy endings. They still haven't touched the fourteen units off of FS Road 2265 which gives us hope. The best news about our efforts comes from the astronomical cash expenditures made to surveil us and bust up our blockades, the lack of a federal closure on the sale area at any time, the lack of prosecution against the arrestees and the spirit of those warriors who could never be stopped and made the whole thing possible.

The loveley and talented Trillium is friends with some real wingnuts. She was recently spotted locked down to a condemned tree in Eugene, OR.

BRITISH EF!

continued from previous page

perhaps in particular for lacking an "Eco-fucker Hit List." To their credit, they did report on the FBI harassment of the Katuah folks about LWOD and have issued a call of solidarity: "We hear the Feds are after the editors of *Live Wild or Die* for supposedly inciting FC. They are currently on the run and could do with more support than a cowed US anarcho scene has shown Ted K so far."

I have gone into the *Green Anarchist* at length because the publication, and the activists involved in the amorphous movement towards a green anarchy, are the vanguard of resistance to industrial culture here in Britain, and their actions and evolving philosophy are having an effect abroad as well. The concept of "HEAL" (human, earth, animal liberation) has encouraged activists have to venture out of their single-issue ideological ghettoes and link up with other movements. Animal rights people now take part in street parties; earth activists go to animal rights demos; anarchists take part in road wars, recognizing that it is the heartless techno-industrial system as a whole which brings misery to humans and non-humans alike.

• *Schnews* and *Squall*

These two very different publica-

tions are effective and creative forms of communication. *Schnews* is put out by "Justice?," an anti-CJA collective based in Brighton. These folks are plugged into the activist scene all across Britain, and they get reports about all sorts of trouble from the actual activists instead of the corporate media. Every week they publish a widely-distributed, double-sided flyer. Unafraid to call politicians, bureaucrats and corporate execs the wankers that they are, *Schnews* is a lively and uncompromising rag. Besides the *schnews*, each issue contains a CJA arrestometer, a crap-arrest-of-the-week award and a brilliant disclaimer.

Squall is sort of the high brow, polished publication of squatters, ravers, dongas (who are kind of like the crowd at a typical American protest base camp), anarchists, social activists and other "Do It Yourself" folks; it's subtitled "a magazine for assorted itinerants." What distinguishes *Squall* from other news journals is the excellent quality of the writing. The layout is really good, the articles provoking and, all-in-all, it's a killer read. If you want to find out what's happening with British counter-culture overall,

you probably couldn't do better than subscribing to *Squall*.

We're Watching Big Brother

Conscious Cinema and *Undercurrents* are two activist video collectives that do a great job of publicizing direct action and protest through a series of tapes, each a collection of films and footage from various groups and movements. *Conscious Cinema* is a bit more lively and punk, while *Undercurrents* is more polished and traditional. But they both get incredible footage of actions and succeed at getting the film out, both to the media and through their own releases. One recurring bone of contention, however, is that video documentation of actions has been used by the cops to identify and arrest activists at a later date. On the other hand, footage has also been used by activists to earn acquittals, dropped charges and false-arrest lawsuit victories.

Conscious Cinema and *Undercurrents* keep people up-to-date on what's happening in often far away places, communicate in a very compelling way to non activists or those who relate best to the video medium, and inspire and incite concerned individuals to take action against the forces of destruction.

For more information and British contacts, check the *EF! Journal* directory or write:

Hunt Saboteurs Association and Howl at POB 2786, Brighton, BN2 2AX, England; phone/fax 01273 622827; e-mail: hsa@gn.apc.org; <http://envirolink.org/arrs/HSA/newhsa2.html>

Reclaim the Streets at POB 9656, London, N4 4NL, England; phone 0171 281 4621; e-mail: rts@gn.apc.org; <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/rts.html>

Green Anarchist at BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX, England. The *Green Anarchist* is also available from Autonomie Distro, POB 791191, New Orleans, LA 70179-1191 or Wind Chill Factor, POB 81961, Chicago, IL 60688.

Squall at POB 8959, London, N19 5HW, England; e-mail: squall@dircon.co.uk; <http://www.phreak.co.uk/squall/>

Schnews and *Justice?* at POB 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex, BN2 2DX, England; phone 01273 685913; <http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/index.html>

Conscious Cinema at POB 2679, Brighton, E. Sussex, BN2 2EF, England; phone 01273 679544; cinema@phreak.intermedia.co.uk

Undercurrents at 16b Cherwell St., Oxford, OX4 1BG, England; phone 01865 203 662; fax 01865 243 562; e-mail: underc@gn.apc.org

Ecuadorian Villagers Torch Mitsubishi Mine

In July of 1991, a pact was signed between the Japanese and Ecuadorian governments to allow Bishimetals, a subsidiary of Mitsubishi, and the state-owned CODIGEM (Corporacion de Desarrollo e Investigacion Metalurgico-Minera) to explore for copper in Junin, a community located in the Intag area of Imbabura Province, Ecuador.

The Junin mining project is located in one of the world's most biologically diverse areas, the forests belonging to the zone known as "Choco" on the Ecuadorian/Colombia border. It is located on the slopes of the Toisan Cordillera which forms a part of the natural limits of the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve. There are a reported 72 million tons of copper in the concession, which Bishimetals plans to exploit by digging an open pit mine. The area is also one of those most threatened by deforestation. Ecuador has only 12 percent of these unique forests remaining.

On May 12, affected communities called on government officials to meet with them immediately to discuss concerns about the Mitsubishi mine. During the past six years of exploration neither Bishimetals nor Mitsubishi have visited the communities directly affected by the mining project to inform the locals about the impacts of mining or to consult them on the project. After 72 hours of no response, and with the help of some 100 villagers, including women and children, all goods were inventoried, removed from the site and handed over to local authorities. Then the community members burned the mine infrastructure to the ground as a protest against the company's presence.

The communities state that the Bishimetals project does not have their prior approval and is therefore being developed "outside the national mining law." The demand an immediate and definitive end to any exploration and possible exploitation of copper in the Junin region.

According to regional conservationist leader Carlos Zorilla, "the case of Junin is a clear wake-up call to governments all over the world, and to big mining companies in particular, that local populations must not be ignored and that their rights to decide their own future must never be overlooked."

A General Assembly of approximately 70 communities and campesino organizations reinforced the rejection of the project on July 2. The Assembly condemned the persecution and the psychological intimidation that the people of the communities affected by the proposal have been subjected to and held the government and Bishimetals responsible. The Assembly also stated that it would be "on the look out for anything which might lead to the activation of the project."

Mario Leon Echeverria, President of the Intag Zonal Development Committee, stated that the government was "responsible for the communities' security," and called on all the popular and democratic organizations in the province and the country to join in the defense of Junin. However, according to Accion Ecologica, a Quito-based environmental group working to support the communities, there have been reports that a military camp may be set up near the site, escalating the tensions and contributing to the problems for the local people.

For more information contact the Rainforest Action Network at 450 Sansome St., 7th floor, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 398-4404.

Finnish Logging Destroys Proposed Russian Park

The last fragments of ancient forest in northern Europe are being destroyed by a Finnish logging company, despite the area being scheduled for national park status and a World Heritage Site.

Activists from the Finnish Nature League and Friends of the Earth Finland blockaded a sawmill in Finland belonging to Vainionpaa on May 7. Finland is a major supplier of timber and paper to the UK.

The logging is taking place at Kalevala in Russian Karelia, close to the border of Finland. The forest is part of a so-called greenbelt on the Finnish-Russian border.

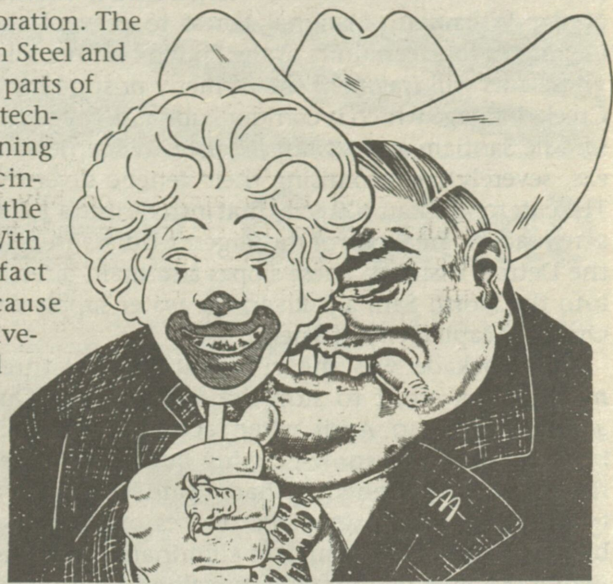
Just five percent of the native forest remains in Sweden and Finland; the majority has been converted to intensively managed secondary forest. Over 1,700 forest-dwelling species in Sweden and over 700 in Finland are threatened as a result, according to a statement by Friends of the Earth UK.

Finnish and Russian authorities have agreed to establish a national park in 100,000 hectares (386 square miles) of the forest. The national park proposal has strong support from the local community, which has officially stated that no logging should take place in

McLibel Verdict Ignites McActions

When the longest trial in English history ended on June 19, neither the verdict nor the widespread exposure of McDonald's inexorable practices could possibly be called a victory for the corporation. The

defendants, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, lost parts of the judgment on technicalities concerning legal and semantic interpretations of the "What's Wrong With McDonald's" fact sheet, and because McDonald's conveniently changed its case several times when the evidence was against them. In spite of this, and all the other inequities between



the monster corporation and the two low-income activists, the defendants won significant and substantial parts of the judgment.

The court found as fact that McDonald's "exploits children" through its advertising, is "culpably responsible" for cruelty to animals, pays low wages and is anti-union, sells food "high in fat and saturated fat and animal products and sodium," and that its "advertisements, promotions and booklets have pretended to a positive nutritional benefit which McDonald's food... did not match."

McDonald's own witnesses testified that McDonald's had contributed to rainforest deforestation by using beef from former rainforest land in Costa Rica, that in the UK, polystyrene products collected to be "recycled" in a PR scam were actually dumped, and that McDonald's was directly responsible for several outbreaks of *E. coli* food poisoning in both the US and UK.

Initially, McDonald's Corporation, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, called the case a "UK issue" and refused to comment on the verdict. Later, in a move clearly calculated to minimize PR damage the Corporation abandoned legal efforts to halt distribution of the leaflets and has decided not to collect the £60,000 the defendants were ordered to pay, or to try to recover its courts costs, estimated at £10 million (\$16 million).

Meanwhile, the defendants and their supporters everywhere have expressed their reactions loud and clear. After hearing the verdict, the defendants thumbed their noses at McDonald's and the libel court by joining picketers outside the court to distribute the "libelous" pamphlets. June 21 was the Victory Day of Action, celebrated with protests and leafleting outside over 500 McDonald's stores worldwide.

On June 29, 200 protesters who were attending an animal rights conference across the street made their outrage known at a McDonald's in Arlington, Virginia. During "walk-thrus" disgruntled "customers" dragged out a "Ronald" statue and burned it on the sidewalk. One person was arrested for returning a large bag of used McDonald's packaging he found misplaced in the streets. Others lay prone, blockading the store's exits. After a manager attempted to choke a female protester, pandemonium broke out, resulting in the closure of the store and the adjacent street. Police in riot gear arrested 18 people.

A week of action is planned for October 11-18 to coincide with UN World Food Day (also known as World Anti-McDonald's Day) on October 16. Meanwhile, Steel and Morris are preparing to take the British government to the European Court of Human Rights to overturn the UK's unfair and oppressive libel laws, and continue to fight for the public's right to criticize multinational corporations.

Check out <http://www.mcspotlight.org> for more information.

the proposed park. In January, the local city administration of Kostamuksha officially supported the establishment of the Kalevala national park and signed an agreement with environmentalists that no logging should take place in the area proposed for the park.

The area is also included in a proposal for a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is supported by the Karelian Minister of the Environment.

Friends of the Earth called on UK companies that import wood or paper from Finland to act urgently to ensure they are not dealing with companies such as Vainionpaa that are destroying Russia's natural heritage, with no regard for the wishes of the local people.

The forest in Russian Karelia has been less exploited than that in Finland and extremely valuable ancient forest remains. Environmentalists have been campaigning for this forest to be protected. As a result of the pressure, Finnish forestry giant ENSO agreed to a one-year moratorium on logging in old-growth forests in Russian Karelia, although they have made no such commitment about old-growth forest in Finland. Other Finnish companies have not agreed to a moratorium.

—E-LINK NEWS SERVICE

Nuke Blockade in the Czech Republic

On July 6, over 600 activists from 22 countries gathered to support a blockade of the Temelin Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). Temelin is located 150 kilometers (83 miles), from Prague. The plant was begun, and then abandoned, by the Soviets. Now CEZ (the Czech electricity utility) and Westinghouse are completing this unwanted NPP. The Czech government insists that because construction began under the Communist regime, normal rules of environmental assessment do not apply. The Hnutí Duha, a leading Czech environmental group, is demanding that environmental impact studies be released before further construction takes place.

Activists blockaded nine of the eleven gates leading into the plant. The majority of gates were held by groups of 50-70 activists lying on the pavement covered with sleeping bags and plastic sheets. Because of a counter-blockade by local police, it was difficult to get lockdowns or other heavy equipment in. The activists had to rely on sheer numbers rather than technical cleverness to maintain the blockade.

The first gate blockades broken up by the police removed roughly 300 blockaders, mostly Czech and Slovak. Some had steel tubes which the police used

hammers and chisels to remove. None of these folks were arrested.

The main gate was a different story. Fifty-one activists were arrested at Gate 5; most were internationals who were held while their Czech friends were released. Much to the dismay of the police, however, this gate was quickly retaken by a group equipped with steel tubes who managed to bypass the police cordon.

The blockade was voluntarily lifted on July 9 and ended with a lively parade from the main gate. The parade shut down traffic for 15 minutes while the blockaders, led by a group of Buddhist monks, marched to the worker's entry gate.

The blockade concluded with a ceremony at an old Temelin village church before a cross erected there to commemorate the victims of Chernobyl. The church is all that remains of the original three villages that once occupied the land where the power plant now stands. Approximately 150 of the blockaders remained at the action campsite until July 13, participating in workshops and outreach to local villages.

For more information contact Stevie DeSaille, Prague International Anti-Nuclear Office, Chuabý'as, 13000 Praha 3, Czech Republic; e-mail: sos@ech.cz.

Street Party in Leicester!

BY NICK JUKES

Leicester's second Reclaim the Streets on June 8 was an empowering experience for all who took part. For an afternoon we stopped the car culture in its tracks and reclaimed the streets for the community.

"It was such a good atmosphere," said one resident. "I looked around and everyone was smiling!" The children were having the time of their lives and were safe. Local shops did a roaring trade; it was a taste of the city as we want it to be.

The police condemnation of the event afterwards was uncalled for. We had legal observers and police liaisons, dealt respectfully with the officers and even played football with them. The emergency services were notified as soon as we began, and during the party a speeding fire engine was let through the crowd immediately.

The *Leicester Mercury* newspaper had a mixed news article the following Monday, June 9, with the headline "Car-culture protest irresponsible" concerning the "risk" to public safety and potential problems with emergency access. But the photos clearly showed the street party atmosphere: sofas, carpets, a paddling pool and dancing in the street.

The *Leicester Mercury* printed a 500-word piece about reclaiming the streets and cities for people. They published it in their regular "Driving Force" motoring section virtually un-edited. They also initiated a phone vote on the issue with the question: "Were the Reclaim the Streets protesters right?" The result of the phone vote was 66 percent, yes and 34 percent, no. We won! And the debate is still going on in the letters page.

We admit responsibility for caring about our community and the environment. What is irresponsible are planners and politicians who encourage car-based development when almost everyone else is calling for an end to the car-culture.

In Leicester, the East-West Link Road was stopped by coordinated lobbying and the threat of direct action. Residents also saved St. Mary's Allotments—the last remaining fragment of Leicestershire's historic Southfields—and direct action saved the cherry trees in Town Hall Square. Countless local residents' groups have blocked roads to demand crossings where children have been injured or killed.

The situation is still serious: cars are dangerous, pollution is a real threat, and we are losing our last remaining green spaces. Local shops are being shut down faster than you can say "Superstores did this to our community."

We imagine a future where cities are designed and run by local people for local people. Where an integrated public transport system meets our travel needs. We want car-free streets lined with fruit trees and humming with conversation, roundabouts alive with the sound of fountains and the shouts of local traders. In short, we want a thriving local economy in a real environmental city.

It is a realistic vision. In Groningen, Holland, no new road proposals are accepted and existing roads have been replaced by footstreets and cycleways. Now more than 50% of journeys made are by bike and businesses are moving in because the city is so pleasant. In York, pedestrians and cyclists are prioritised in planning decisions. So far 20 percent of all residential streets have been traffic calmed, and there is an extensive central footstreet area.

Leicester City Council deserves praise for the new cycleways and the Town Hall Bike Park, built to encourage green commuting. It is a start, but a slow, timid one, in stark contrast to the vast amount spent on roads.

Furthermore, any positive initiative will be neutralised by developments encourage and accommodate more cars in the city centre. Such developments constitutes more than a lack of vision: they show a disregard for our environment, our health and quality of life.

Indian Villagers Trash Enron Powerplant

On June 3, police raided the fishing village of Veldur in the state of Maharashtra, India, to arrest 39 fisherpeople who live near Dhabol Creek. Enron, the Texas-based natural gas multinational, is building a 2,015 megawatt gas-fired, combined-cycle powerplant nearby. The \$2.8 billion project, known as the Dabhol Power Company, is a joint venture of Enron and two US partners, Bechtel and General Electric. Police forced their way into homes, smashed the tiles of their abodes and dragged people to the police station.

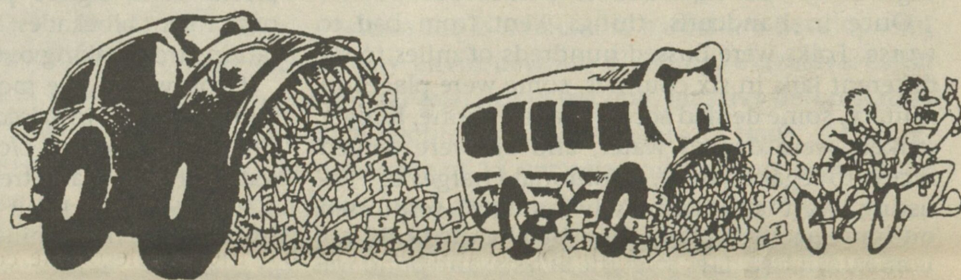
The apparent reason for the round-up was a skirmish that occurred between police and local people when the community of Kharvi and Bhoi fisherpeople tried to prevent 300 workers at the Enron plant from going to work through the village of Veldur. The workers had stopped traveling through the village since earlier protests on May 17 but were forced to abandon their alternate route early this month due to rough weather.

The key concern of the villagers is that effluent from the power plant will destroy their fisheries and kill the coconut and mango trees that they have traditionally grown there.

However, these were not the first protests against the project. In May 1995, hundreds of villagers stormed the Enron plant and injured many of the 1,500 construction workers, including three of the 60 foreign advisers on the project. At the time, Mahmood Ibrahim Mastan, the headman of Anjanvel, said, "The papers started talking about pollution in the area. And people heard they would have to leave their homes. They said, 'why not remove them before they remove us?'"

The Enron project was also opposed by local activists and unions like the Centre of Indian Trade Unions who brought lawsuits to try and prevent it from going forward. Local economists say that the deal is a financial disaster. "Enron, in collusion with certain business interests, tried to pull off quite an unfair business deal, if not outright plunder," explained Subodh Wagle, Shantanu Dixit and Girish Sant, economists with Prayas, a non-governmental organization based in Pune, Maharashtra.

In 1995, the local state government, which is a right-wing coalition comprised of the Shiva Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party, threatened to cancel the deal because of its high price tag and the alleged corruption by the previous government that negotiated the project. Only high-level lobbying by the CEO of Enron and US government agencies saved the project by re-negotiating the terms to give the state government revenue at that time.



Logging Pushes Chimps into Deadly Territorial War

Logging of tropical forests in the Central African country of Gabon appears to have touched off a savage territorial war among chimpanzees, causing four of every five chimps to die. With an estimated 50,000 chimpanzees, Gabon accounts for much of the African chimp population, estimated at 100,000 to 150,000. But the chimpanzee wars have apparently reduced the Gabonese population to about 30,000. It could ultimately fall to 10,000 if most of the country is logged as planned, according to biologist Dr. Lee White of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The fear is that the Central African subspecies, of which the Gabon chimps are members, may become endangered, as are two other subspecies in Western and Eastern Africa. The findings from Gabon are especially startling because the logging is selective, intended to minimize damage to the habitat of chimpanzees and other animals. No more than 10 percent of the trees in a given tract are cut. No other large animals like elephants or gorillas appear to have suffered. But chimps, the primates most closely related to humans, are known to be highly jealous of their

territory and patrol and defend their borders constantly.

As mechanized logging operations advance on a continuous front three to six miles wide, the chimpanzees, who are not used to humans and have never encountered big, noisy machines, are frenzied. The startled chimps flee right into the territory of the next chimp community. When that happens, White said, "you're essentially going to kick-start a chimpanzee war." The males from the invaded community attack the interlopers and many die.

And the loggers keep coming. The invaded community itself is displaced onto the next community's territory. New warfare breaks out, White believes, "and this process goes on and on and on and on as the loggers move through."

It is clear on the basis of sampling surveys of chimpanzee nests, scat and actual animals in Gabon's 2,000 square-mile Lope Reserve that the population of a given community falls by 80 percent immediately after the loggers go through. The surviving 20 percent filter back to their home range through undisturbed forest after the war.

EXXON MINING ACTION IN WISCONSIN

BY PANCHE

On the morning of July 7, 29 people were arrested in Forest County, Wisconsin, while taking part in an Earth First! protest against the proposed Wolf River Exxon/Rio Algom corporation metallic sulfide mine. In Crandon, where 14 arrests took place, protesters were seized by law enforcement officials after just over 20 minutes of chanting, holding signs and folksinging on the sidewalk. Their crime? "Unlawful Assembly."

While Robert Hoyt led folks in singing *All You Good Americans* and *Quittin' Time*, the cops assembled across the street. At some point, for reasons unknown, the authorities decided that it was time to put a stop to the gathering. The word came over the bullhorn, something to the effect that the protest constituted an unlawful assembly and that folks must disperse from the area. Within a minute, cops were dragging people away. They arrested people for asking simple questions like, "Why are you arresting him?" They also arrested people for taking photographs, for asking for badge numbers and names, for just standing on the sidewalk and singing songs.

Later, at the site of the proposed Exxon mine near Swamp Creek, which is some dozen miles south of Crandon near Mole Lake, fifteen people were arrested and charged with "Criminal Trespass." In all, some five dozen Sheriff's Department, City of Crandon, City of Rhinelander, Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers and other cops were involved in forcibly suppressing peaceful protests involving 100 people in three Wisconsin communities. The arrests in Crandon and Mole Lake took place following the 1997 EF! Round River Rendezvous.

Once in handcuffs, things went from bad to worse. Folks were bussed hundreds of miles to six different jails in six counties, some were placed in solitary, some denied access to a telephone, hunger strikers were denied water, and all were denied access to legal counsel. Additional charges of "Resisting Arrest" and "Disorderly Conduct" were tossed on some people's plates. The bail hearings did not come until two days after the arrests, and bond was

set between \$350 and \$500 each.

While they were in jail, support people turned up the heat. Community leaders across Wisconsin sent out statements condemning the arrests. Friends kept the phone lines buzzing and the letters flowing in to challenge to the arrests. In addition to the public statements of support, they received support from the towns of Crandon, Argonne and other communities.

A legal defense and general support committee have been established (see address below). The Wisconsin State ACLU has taken the case, and together with a growing team of public defenders, movement attorneys and others, a coordinated legal strategy is in the works.

Since last year, substantive evidence has emerged that Exxon and other extraction corporations have biased the Department of Natural Resources, influenced the State Legislature, dismantled such environmental watchdogs as the offices of the Public Intervenor and the Secretary of State, and interfered in the local politics of many Wisconsin townships, counties and Native American communities. Additionally, Exxon has spent millions of dollars on a public relations blitzkrieg, as well as on the formation of three front groups in Wisconsin, the most notorious of which is People for the West, a wholly owned and operated \$1 million subsidiary corporation of the mining industry.

The resistance to metallic sulfide mining has been incredible. Hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites have marched, written letters, voted, made telephone calls, signed petitions and taken part in nonviolent blockades, all to stop the mining corporations from taking over.

If you would like more information on the anti-mining struggle in Wisconsin, contact the EF! July 7th Support Committee, c/o UW Greens/Midwest Headquarters EF!, 731 State Street, Madison, WI 53703; (608) 262-9036, or check out the EarthWINS web pages at <http://www.menominee.com/nominating/>.

ANNOUNCING: CORPORATE FALL '97

New inspiration for the Earth First! End Corporate Dominance (ECD) campaign blossomed at the ECD workshop at the '97 Round River Rendezvous (RRR). We developed a Corporate Fall '97 project, set up a nationwide network of ECD coordinators, joined the global struggle against neoliberalism and made the commitment to work with student groups on the Corporations and Democracy Teach-ins in 1998.

Earth First! tuned into the anti-corporate movement at the '94 Mount Graham EF! RRR with a groundbreaking Ending Corporate Dominance workshop. Many activists were weary of the battle-by-battle style of eco-activism where we win some/lose some while the perpetrators of environmental destruction remain constant, thriving and growing more powerful all the time. At the '96 Activist Conference, October 29, 1996 was selected for a national day of EF! action against corporations, while October 13-19 was promoted for the Democracy Teach-ins. Our original goals were surpassed, as both the Teach-ins and the October 29 day of action went international.

This year we have given ourselves more time, more flexibility and more help to work on ECD actions. The whole month of October will be dedicated to expressing our outrage toward corporations. The month's events will culminate in *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), November 1, to honor all lands and beings who have died at the hands of corporate capitalism and imperialism.

Additionally, rather than having one coordinator for ECD actions, a network of contacts was established to share the workload and defray communications expenses. A directory of contacts is available through Austin EF!. Anyone interested in joining the campaign should contact the organizer nearest them.

Campaign organizers also made a quantum leap

towards globalizing our struggle by joining the movement against neoliberalism. In a nutshell, neoliberalism is the current trend of capitalism which emphasizes globalization of the marketplace, privatization and subsidies to private enterprise. The World Trade Organization (formerly GATT), NAFTA, G-8, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and the increasing mobility of capital and natural resource exploitation are expressions of neoliberalist policies. ECD organizers drafted a statement of solidarity to be sent to the Second International Encuentro in Spain where Zapatista support groups and anti-neoliberalist activists will come together to discuss and strategize resistance to corporate and imperialist greed. (See solidarity statement below.)

The upcoming Corporations, Education, and Democracy Teach-ins will take place March 1-7, 1998. Two organizational and training meetings will be held for the Teach-ins on August 1 and 2 in Milwaukee and November 1 and 2 in Chicago. (Anybody interested in attending should contact the Teach-in Clearinghouse at (608) 262-9036.) Look for Teach-in updates in the *EF! Journal*. Although the Teach-ins are largely student organized and oriented, nonstudent organizers are strongly encouraged to participate or sponsor their own Teach-ins.

May 1 was consensed upon to be an ECD action day for 1998. Mayday is the traditional Labor Day of international fame, making it a *de facto* ECD date with much historical significance. Mayday is also one of the biggest ancient pagan holidays, a celebration of spring. These two traditions make Mayday a very potent day for opposing big business and celebrating our peasant roots.

Organizers at the EF! RRR emphasized the necessity of doing research on our corporate targets. Darryl

EarthFirst! lingo

Like any group, members of EarthFirst! have their own lingo. Here is a look at some of the common words used at the recent EarthFirst! rendezvous.

■ **Action:** A term that describes putting EarthFirst! philosophy to use. Action usually describes an event or plan that is meant to protect the environment.

■ **Bioregion:** The different areas across the United States that EarthFirst! members represent. Wisconsin is in the Headwaters bioregion.

■ **Bomber:** Something that is great or awesome. "You tied a really bomber knot."

■ **Efer:** Pronounced "ee-effer," this is how some members of EarthFirst! refer to each other.

■ **Ewok village:** EarthFirst! members who live suspended in old-growth forests hoping to prevent loggers from cutting the trees they occupy.

■ **Freddy:** Forest Service officer.

■ **Folks:** General, gender-neutral term for people.

■ **Free state:** An area Earth-

Firsters blockade off, usually in a national forest, and claim to be free from U.S. law. Since September 1995, EarthFirst! has held a Cascadia Free State in the Willamette National Forest in the Pacific Northwest.

■ **Lockdown:** Chaining, strapping, locking or connecting one's self to a tree, piece of equipment, road, vehicle, building or person to prevent or blockade.

■ **Monkey-wrenching:** Disrupting or disabling. Usually targeted at resource-extraction operations.

■ **Rednecks for Wilderness:** People who want to preserve the wilderness but like to hunt and fish.

■ **Resource extraction:** A common term used to describe the use of natural resources, most notably, logging and mining.

■ **Vegan:** People who do not consume any animal products. Vegans do not eat gelatin, eggs, dairy products, animal fats, or any flavors that come from animals.

■ **Vegetarian:** People who do not eat meat.

"EarthFirst! lingo" appeared in the *Wassau Daily Herald* on July 5 during the '97 RRR.

DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST NEOLIBERALISM

[Editors Note: The Earth First! Movement has collectively endorsed the following declaration at the recent Round River Rendezvous.]

Earth First! declares its solidarity and active participation in the global struggle against neoliberalism. We support resistance movements around the world and stand firmly against the policies of the US and other governments which silence the voices of the people and the land.

The Earth First! End Corporate Dominance campaign seeks to strike at the core of neoliberalist policies and institutions. We recognize that neoliberalism is a force that allows corporate dominance of the Earth and all her peoples. Therefore we believe that our movement is naturally part of the movement against neoliberalism. We hope to join forces, whenever possible, sharing tactics and resources.

We invite all individuals and groups fighting neoliberalism to join us in a month of action dedicated to ending corporate dominance. Throughout the month of October 1997, groups all over the world will take direct action against the corporate culture. The month will culminate on Dia de los Muertos, November 1, when we will honor the lands, creatures and peoples who have died at the hands of imperialism and corporate capitalism.

From March 1-7, 1998 many groups, including Earth First!, are hosting Corporations, Education and Democracy Teach-ins. We invite anti-neoliberalist movements to join the Teach-Ins or host their own.

May Day 1998 is another planned day of action against corporate dominance which progressive groups of all types will join.

Earth First! applauds the efforts of the groups and individuals who have built the anti-neoliberalism movement. We believe that unity and solidarity are the only way to preserve the Earth and all her peoples.

Cherney advocates the "buy in but don't sell out" strategy, where activists buy stock from their corporate foes. This gives you the right to attend your corporation's annual shareholder's meeting (and fuck shit up!) as well as to sponsor resolutions. This year redwoods activists did both with incredible success at the MAXXAM shareholders' meeting in Houston, Texas. Darryl got to address the MAXXAM board on two occasions and got to speak directly with CEO Charles Hurwitz.

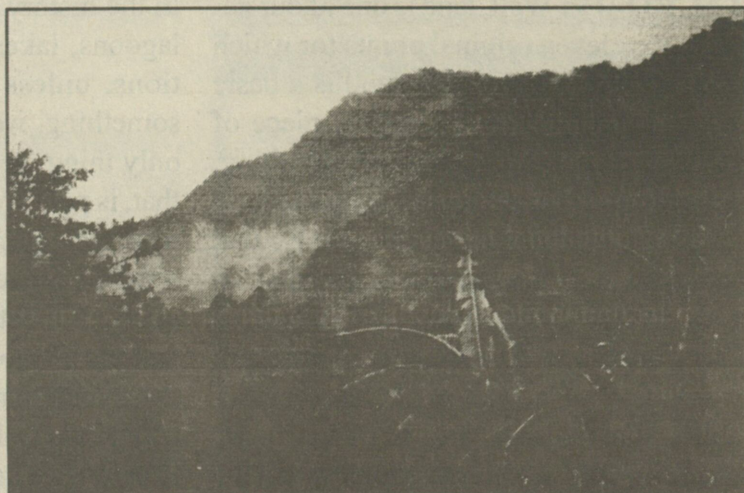
Now is the time to do the research on corporate perpetrators. If you need help getting started, folks on the ECD contact net can help you out. There is a lot of corporate dirt out there, but it takes time and effort to find it and get it into useful forms. See you in the boardrooms!

For a list of the ECD organizer in your area or for more information or for a Spanish version of this declaration, contact Austin EF! at the address listed on page 35.

The Zapatistas: A Struggle for Land and Indigenous Sovereignty

The Zapatistas are a product of 500 years of indigenous struggle in Mexico. Ten years prior to the indigenous uprising of January 1, 1994, the Zapatistas began organizing in the mountains of the Lacandon, training and building their political bases of support. Then in preparation for NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) Article 27, the constitutional provision for and protection of communal land ownership--a central demand of the Mexican revolution--was profoundly revised to free up communal lands to be sold. To the indigenous culture and way of life, this was a death sentence. The same day that NAFTA was implemented, a loud cry spread forth into the world saying "Enough!", issuing forth a list of demands to be met by the Mexican government such as land, food, work, democracy, liberty, and justice. The indigenous cry was heard around the world and after only twelve days of open combat, there was a cease fire. Widespread protests across Mexico helped decide the fate of the conflict and peace talks soon began thereafter. Agreements on Indigenous Rights and Culture made between the PRI government and the

Zapatistas were signed by both parties in January of 1996 but were never implemented. In December of 1996, these agreements were changed by the PRI government and rejected by the Zapatistas who knew that the reformed document lacked the power to change their situation. 1997 finds the Zapatistas struggling against an untrustworthy government and a low-intensity war provoked by the militarization of Zapatista communities by the Mexican Army. ☉



Lacandon Rainforest near La Realidad Photo: Langelles/NFN

La Selva Lacandona

by Melissa Burch

The Lacandon jungle is one of North America's last remaining tropical rainforests. It is part of a larger rainforest ecosystem that extends into Guatemala, where it is called the Peten and into Belize. Second in size in the Americas only to the Amazon, the Lacandon region is the most northerly and most extensive rainforest in Mesoamerica.

The Lacandon region, comprising 957,240 ha, almost 13% of the state of Chiapas, is an area of incredible biological and cultural importance.

Within the Lacandon jungle are more than 100 archaeological sites, including important Mayan ceremonial centers such as Palenque, Yaxchilan, Bonampak and Tonina. The Lacandon rainforest is the least populated area of the state (approximately 3.77 inhabitants/square km). There are approximately 400,000 inhabitants in total, scattered in more than 200 human settlements. Seventy percent of the Lacandona population is indigenous, with Tzeltal, Tzotzil, Tojobal, Chol, Zoque or Lacandon roots. Before the Spanish conquest, the Lacandones were the last free indigenous nation of Chiapas.

The Lacandon jungle is a region of incredible biological diversity. From high evergreen rainforest, to medium and high sub-deciduous rainforest, palm stands and riparian and jimba stands in areas of low elevation, the selva is home to a known 2,723 species of plants and animals, which represents only 6.3% of the 42,756 species estimated to be present in the region. The Lacandon jungle comprises only 0.4% of Mexico's total area, yet holds at least 33% of its bird species, 25% of its mammals and 11% of its amphibians and reptiles. The Lacandon jungle is also important habitat for a number of endangered species including the tapir, jaguar, ocelote, spider and howler monkeys and white tortoise. The Lacandon is the only region where the Harpy eagle has been recently spotted.

In 1972, the federal government endowed 614,321 ha of the central Lacandon jungle to sixty-six Lacandon chiefs. In 1978, the Montes Azul Biosphere Reserve, comprising 331,200 ha, was established for conservation--this is probably Mexico's most biodiverse ecological reserve.

The Lacandon jungle has supported twenty-five centuries of sustainable Mayan population. But today, like tropical rainforests all over the world, the Lacandon jungle is in danger of being permanently lost to the forces of Neoliberalism. These forces have brought about extreme poverty, which has led to accelerated immigration and colo-

nization of the region and destructive, migratory agriculture. Also at play within the Neoliberalist model are development plans lacking any environmental planning, extensive cattle ranching, irrational resource extraction, massive deforestation and clandestine hunting and illegal wild-life trade. More recently, the discovery of 18 untapped oil reserves beneath the Lacandon jungle have presented a new, looming threat.

The recent history of the Lacandon jungle began at the end of the 19th century with the large scale exportation of fine woods such as Mahogany and Cedar. Spanish, Belgian, English and northern North American companies opened the jungle to logging, entirely for foreign markets. Other companies also came for coffee, rubber, cocoa and bananas. Between 1875 and 1908, 27% of the total area of Chiapas was given to private companies. Little by little, vast areas of the Lacandon were occupied, representing the interests of industrialized nations. Before 1914, the principal market for fine woods was England and the rest of Europe. After WWI, the U.S. began to control exports from Latin America and by 1940, had definitive control of the Lacandon jungle.

The 1940's saw the first wave of cattle ranchers moving into the jungle, mainly from the region of Tabasco. The Tobascans began to encourage the indigenous people of the selva to give up their traditional crops in favor of cattle raising. There were government grants and credits available to buy cattle and put up fences, however none for aid in better pasture management techniques or feed supplements. The destructive management practices used by the ranchers meant that the soil did not last long enough for cattle to fatten and so the economic benefits of cattle raising were seen in Tabasco, where the cattle was shipped for fattening and packaging. By 1960, cattle took over the whole northern third of the Lacandon jungle.

Major colonization of the Lacandon jungle began in the 1950's, its peak being from 1964 to 1970. With little planning, the government, namely agrarian authorities, encouraged mass migration to Lacandon jungle, as a way to alleviate land disputes and political problems in other areas. Colonization began with Tzeltal Indians from the municipality of Ocosingo, who headed to the region of Palenque in search of land. Next an influx of many different indigenous groups migrated from Bachajon, Yajalon, Pantelho, Tila, Tumbala and Salto de Augua, all regions in Chiapas. The 1970's brought campesinos from other states: Guerrero, Oaxaca, Michoacan, Puebla. All those who migrated to the Lacandon jungle had two things in common; they

Continued on next page

Excerpt from Interview with Comandante Tacho of the EZLN

NFN--CIV: What meaning does the land, the terrain, and all its species have for the indigenous people of Chiapas?

TACHO--IV: Well, land is one of our demands in the eleven original points for which we took up arms. We believe land is a basic point. First, because we all need a piece of land to live, that is the most important thing, but not only to live, we also need a piece of land to produce, and make it possible for that life to continue. It is essential to produce, so life goes on for the inhabitants of Chiapas, as well as for those of Oaxaca, Veracruz, Guerrero, and other states of the Mexican Republic. We see that land has been badly distributed, because we indigenous are on the hills, but the big landowners are on the meadows, they have the best land. This is true because we are seeing it, and we cannot deceive ourselves neither us as indigenous nor as Mexicans, those from Guerrero or Chiapas are seeing that there is a disparity in land distribution, therefore, the importance it has, because we need it to live, to produce, but besides that, it has many riches, it has for example, rivers, springs, it has a lot of important things, and they are natural things... So, we see this is the inequality that exists, everything is badly distributed, everything, from the land to all we consider ours, natural. That's

what has happened, poor distribution, land has been in a few hands, and they are the ones who have tried to do atrocities with what really is the wealth of the people... We have seen in the history of our country that from those lagoons, lakes, rivers, jungle, tourist attractions, unless non indigenous have gotten something, we have not gotten anything, the only thing we have received in exchange for that, is poverty, death, misery, hunger, nakedness, lack of medicine, lack of teachers, that's what we are left with. So, we have not seen a good administration, and what we want as Zapatistas is a good administration, starting from the foundation that is the land, where we can go and visit a lake, because it is ours, because it belongs to all of us, where, nobody is the owner. Nowadays, those in power act as if they were the owners, the only ones, that's what they believe, as if power belonged only to the few, and that's not true. We don't believe that, we are convinced that the power to decide what is going to be done or not, is in the hands of organized people. That's why we have pledged our commitment that all the goods that belong to the people should be for the people, and they should benefit from it, and the people should be able to decide what to do. Nowadays in Mexico that doesn't exist, and it is because of a very serious thing, there is no democracy in Mexico, as well as no freedom, no justice, and precisely because there is no justice ev-

everything has been inadequately distributed, there is no agrarian justice. Then, what we need is agrarian reform where all of us can live where nobody has... for example, there is a farm called "La Pinta" it has ten thousand hectares, and it belongs to only one landlord, the Castellano Dominguez family, whose head, of course is the ex-general Abasal Castellano Dominguez, all that family has many, many farms, many cattle ranches, but besides that, at the beginning they had to exploit all the wood it had. Why? Why to the indigenous people they could not grant a concession when they had been asking for one for years? That's why we say there is a bad administration, bad distribution, and they had taken over, they have been so stupid, as the sub says, so dirty, they have been wanting to become the owners of nature, and we say no, all of us are the owners, and we all deserve it. That's why we affirm that land is the principal foundation, that all Mexicans need it, as well as non Mexicans, because in other countries, they also need land. How can it be that others who live in the city have houses even to rent, but houses, many houses, and others don't even have a piece of land where to live? Why? That's because of greed, because land has been in the hands of a few. Then, we say no, there must be justice in every sense of the word, right? But, that's what has existed in

Continued ...

The Selva Lacandona

from previous page

were poor campesinos or day laborers, coming from areas with little or poor land and all were looking for better opportunities. Today the government continues to encourage migration to the Lacandon jungle, waving a vague promise of the expansion of ejido lands, but the reality is that the quantity of land is finite.

The threat to the jungle accompanied by colonization is not so much due to the numbers of campesinos as it is to inappropriate use of lands and destructive agricultural techniques. The traditional Lacandon way of farming, based on diverse, integrated and rotational crops had little impact on the forest, allowing it to fully regenerate between rotations. With the Green Revolution in the United States, came the introduction of hybrids and fertilizers and the loss of traditional seeds and methods. At first, the Mexican government donated these new seeds and fertilizers to campesinos, creating an economic dependency on U.S. chemical companies. Now that farmers have chemically dependent soils and have lost much of their original genetic material and knowledge of traditional techniques, the government has declared a "free-market" where farmers must buy their own inputs- most simply cannot afford to. Left with depleted soils, due to the abuse of pesticides and fertilizers, farmers head further into

the jungle, in search of new land.

The Lacandon jungle is being destroyed at an alarming rate. In the past 30 years, the Lacandon jungle has lost 70% of its original surface of 1.4 million hectares. Of the 30% that is still conserved, an estimated 18% is damaged, leaving only 12% fully intact. According to the Colegio de la Frontera Sur, one of the largest and most respected ecological research facilities in the country, between 1976 and 1991, there has been an annual deforestation rate of 60,411 ha/ year in the Lacandon jungle.

With the lifting of the ban on logging in the selva by the Salinas government in 1994, the Lacandon jungle has seen an unprecedented loss of biodiversity. The past two years have brought uncontrolled overexploitation of the forest; an explosion in the contraband of precious woods all throughout the Lacandon jungle, including in the Montes Azul- the most important ecological reserve in the country. If deforestation continues at this rate, within 51 years, the major extension of tropical forest in Chiapas will be lost.

Recently, multinationals like International Paper and Pulsar have been pushing for the opening of Mexican legal framework to allow for larger scale exploitation. Sectors of reformed agrarian law, passed in 1992, permitted the concentration of up to 25,000 ha of land in

the hands of one owner, provided the land is of "forest character". This law, when linked to Mexico's new forest law in April of this year, allows for the development of larger Eucalyptus and other monocrop plantations. Reforms like these, opening up the legal framework of agrarian reform, present a serious threat to the autonomy of indigenous communities and their right to manage their territory according to their culture.

Once again the fundamental questions are raised of "who owns the land and what is it being used for?" On trial are the neoliberalist policies which cater to the interests of big business and maximum capital gain, ignoring the basic needs of the majority and requiring an endless supply of natural resources, in a world where resources are finite. ☼

Chiapas Rainforest Video Coming Soon!

This video documentary from the NFN's expedition to the Lacandon rainforest in Chiapas, Mexico will be ready for distribution sometime soon. If you are interested, please contact our office and we will let you know when it is completed.

**Native Forest Network
Eastern North American Resource Center
PO Box 57
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Old Dream of Global Capitalists Threatens Autonomy, Culture and Ecology in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico

by Melissa Burch

Since the days of conquest, capitalists have been dreaming of a rapid corridor for transportation of goods from Europe and eastern North America to Asia and western North America. Today, the Mexican Federal government and officials in the states of Oaxaca and Veracruz are joining hands with undisclosed multinational corporations, to finally realize their dream in the "megaproject" of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

The Isthmus region of the southeastern states of Oaxaca and Veracruz, represents the narrowest stretch between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean and borders the states of Chiapas and Tabasco to the east. The Isthmus is a region of unique and rich ecological and cultural diversity. The growing volume of goods to be transported in the global market, as well as the upcoming political return of the Panama canal, has drawn industrial interest to this strategic location.

Megaproject plans begin with a four lane highway and two rail track for a "bullet" train, from the port of Coatzacoalcos in the Gulf of Mexico to the port of Salina Cruz in the Pacific Ocean. The rights to operation and ownership would not belong to Mexico, but rather to multinational corporations. Alongside this transit corridor, there are plans for approximately 70 development projects including industrial parks, clothing and textile maquiladoras, 14 chemical and petrochemical projects, eucalyptus plantations, shrimp farms and tourist initiatives such as an airport, golf course and marine park for yachts.

Many believe this megaproject would represent nothing short of a brutal assault on the ecological integrity of the region, as well as on the culture and right to self determination of local campesino and indigenous communities. Its abrupt and mountainous landscape provides for a wide range of microclimates, ecological niches, and refuges for flora and fauna. This contact zone between plants and animals of north and south America forms part of a group of ecosystems that house between thirty and forty percent of the planet's biodiversity. In the heart of the Isthmus, lies the Chimalapan mountain range which, together with the Uxpanapa region, forms the last stand of virgin

rainforest and is home to the greatest diversity of reptiles and the second greatest population of mammals, in Mesoamerica. The Chimalapas extend over 600,000 ha and are divided into two communal, indigenous landholdings.

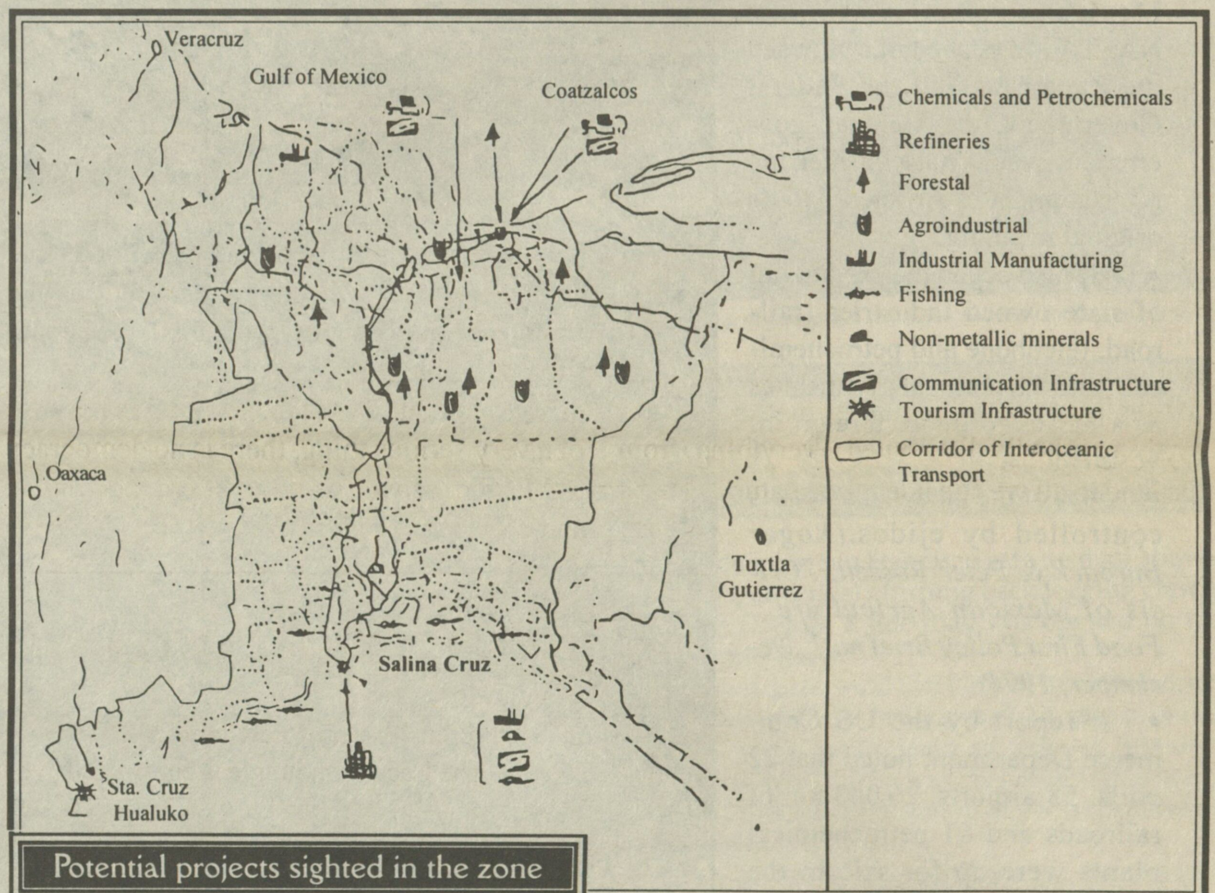
Hundreds of communities of diverse cultural origin make up the Isthmus. Indigenous nations represented include Olmecas, Nahuas, Zoques, Chontales, Mixes, Zapotecas and Huaves.

Communities and grassroots groups in the region are angry about the lack of information available about the projects and

lived there for centuries as legitimate owners and stewards of the land, with the right to manage their territories and resources autonomously. ☉

... continued from interview with Tacho

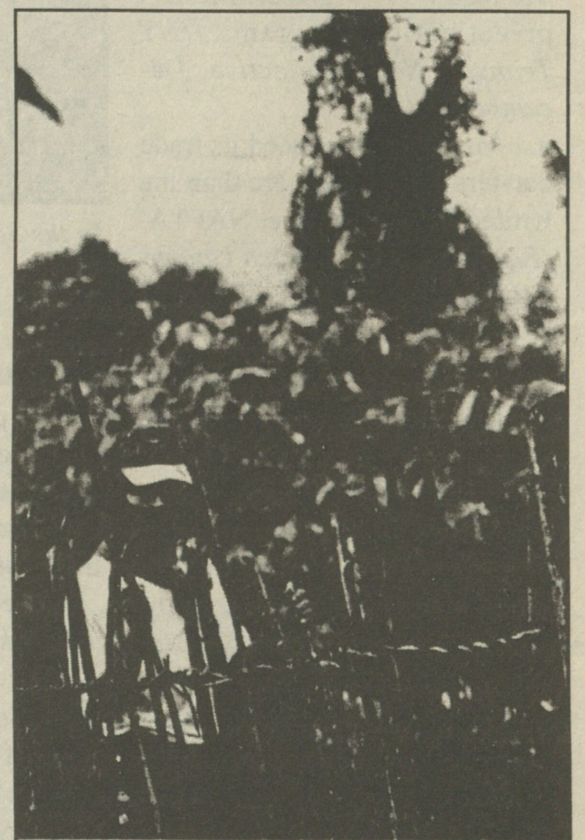
Mexico, and we say no, there must be agrarian justice, only then, will start a just distribution, an equal share, and they don't want to do it, that's why they treat us the way they do, but we keep insisting this is the principal demand of the people, that's how it is, you just can't imagine how the situation of land tenure is. ☉



their total exclusion from the planning process. There are also grave concerns about the devastating impacts this project might have on the ecology, culture and local economy and little conviction about benefits to the local people. But the most important and frightening impact to most is that which is political; the lack of democracy that allows corporations and governments to impose life altering projects on ecosystems and human communities, without recognizing the people who have

For more information, contact:

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[www-http://www.ige.org/nedm](http://www.ige.org/nedm)

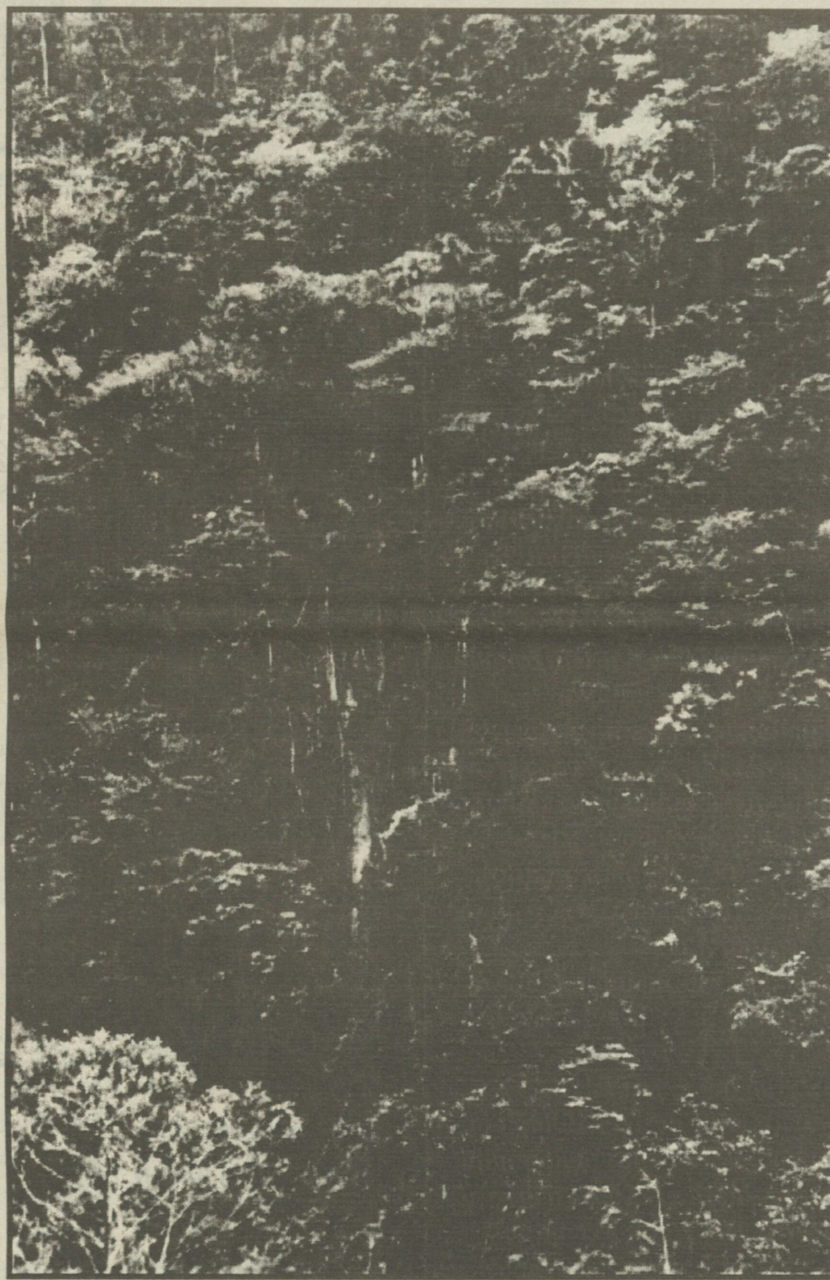


Behind the Zapatista lies the Selva Lacandon
photo: Langelle/NFN

US economic interests, based in investments, industries and exploitation of natural resources, are directing the war in Chiapas.

NAFTA and promotion of international investment through changes to agrarian reform

- **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** is the agreement between United States, Canada and Mexico to reduce commercial trade barriers among the three countries. The agreement established parameters whereby NAFTA will gradually eliminate most barriers to the trading of goods, services and financial investment. The realm of influence includes laws on banking, insurance, health and safety and environmental regulations.
- NAFTA required that changes be made to Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution on agrarian reform.
- **Article 27**, established agrarian reform to redistribute land to peasants, and to provide for communal ownership of that land. *Ejidos* are communal peasant landholdings as established by article 27.
- President Carlos Salinas changed article 27 to permit the privatization of communal land holdings to bring Mexico's property laws into line with those of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners in preparation for the opening of Mexican economy to the NAFTA. In peace talks between the Zapatistas and the Federal Government, the Mexican government would not consider the reinstatement of Article 27 to its original meaning.
- He also began the privatizing of state owned industries (railroad, telephone and petrochemical), and the removal of subsidies as a means to invite foreign investment.
- 54% of the land in Chiapas is controlled by ejidos. (Roger Burback & Peter Rossett, "Crisis of Mexican Agriculture", Food First Policy Brief no.1, December, 1994)
- A report by the US Commerce Department noted that 22 ports, 58 airports, 26,000 km of railroads and 61 petrochemical plants were up for sale in the Mexican government's privatization program. (NY Transfer News Collective, December 2, 1995)
- Mexico has reduced its trade barriers five times more than the United States has under NAFTA. (Equipo Pueblo, Mexico Update #105, January 15, 1997)



In the Selva Lacandon

Photo: Langelle/NFN

The Mexican Economic Crisis and Bailout

- On December 21, 1994 the Mexican peso went into a free fall and the Mexican economy into a recession. U.S. and international institutions put together a \$50 billion credit line—the largest bailout in history—to protect Mexico from defaulting on its debt payments. (New York Transfer News Collective, December 2, 1995)
- The Mexican government used the future proceeds from production and exportation of Mexican crude oil, oil products, and petrochemical exports as collateral in its loan from the United States. (Crystal Echohawk, Special Report on Peace Crisis regarding San Andres Agreements, February, 1997)
- IMF contributed \$18 billion to the Mexican bailout with an agreement that the Zedillo Administration "undertake privatization and (foreign) concession operations." This agreement was estimated to yield \$12-14 billion to U.S. over the next 3 years. (Crystal Echohawk, Special Report on Peace Crisis regarding San Andres Agreements, February, 1997)
- The Mexican government issued another \$1 billion in bonds, offered through Merrill

Lynch and Salomon Brothers and others. The ten year bond will pay an annual interest rate of 9.875%, or 3.35 percentage above the US Treasury bond rate. The Finance Secretariat said that the resources from this issue will be used to pay off short term debt. (Equipo Pueblo, Mexico Update #105, January 15, 1997)

Multi-national corporations interest for Forest Resources

- "When the Mexican congressional committee presented their proposal for constitutional changes reflecting the governments signed commitments to Indians rights, Zedillo asked the Zapatistas for 15 days to study the issue. The President then boarded the Mexican equivalent of Airforce 1 and flew, not to Washington, but to Wall Street, where he met with Henry Kissinger and other top financial celebrities. Upon his return he announced the rejection of the proposed legislation by presenting a counterproposal, clearly designed to be unacceptable, which the Zapatistas rejected. **In less than one month, Environmental Minister Carabias announced a large World Bank loan for "forestry", i.e. commercial plantations.**" (Ronald Nigh, Dana Association)
- The Zedillo administration already had an agreement with International Paper, signed June 27, 1995, for the establishment of a Mexican forest industry, to be globally competitive and supported by commercial plantations. (Jaime Aviles, La Jornada, February 15, 1997)
- At that time, President Zedillo also committed to an initial project of 50 thousand hectares in the state of Chiapas. (Jaime Aviles, La Jornada, February 15, 1997)
- The Mexican government has agreements as well with the US companies, Simpson Paper and Louisiana Paper, to buy all the wood products from a project to produce 6 million cubic meters of wood material per year. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made the agreement on the project with the company Interfin in 1993, to establish immense commercial eucalyptus plantations for rapid growth on a surface of 300,000 hectares in Tabasco, Chiapas and Campeche. (Jaime Aviles, La Jornada, February 1 & 15, 1997) *

US TESTING THOSE NASTY NUKES AGAIN

Defying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and international protest, the Department of Energy (DOE) exploded 3.3 pounds of plutonium with chemical explosives on July 2. Despite the CTBT's promise of worldwide nuclear disarmament, the US is spending more on nuclear weapons testing and development. This open-ended series of tests, designed to produce new weapons, is just one small part of the DOE's ten-year, \$40 billion nuclear weapons program.

On June 31, activists from Shundahai Network and Nevada Desert Experience locked arms in a circle blocking the entrance to the DOE, while others hung a banner. Surprisingly, there were no arrests. The next day, approximately 50 local activists showed up for a vigil in front of the Foley Federal building in Las Vegas.

Three activists biked 40 miles into the test site to the LYNER (Low Yield Nuclear Explosion Research Facility) prior to the test. Early Wednesday morning they entered the main facility and hid under a trailer waiting for the countdown. Shortly thereafter, test-site security arrested and detained the activists.

Meanwhile, at the invitation of the DOE, a busload of fifty international press members headed into the Nevada Test Site to witness the blast. Activists held a vigil at the DOE office and passed out press packets to the media outlining the dangers to global peace that US nuclear testing creates. At the Nevada Test Site, other activists prepared to blockade the bus before it entered the facility with a vigil along the road between the offramp and entrance to the Nevada Test Site.

Just after Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Elder and spiritual leader, finished saying a blessing, the police-escorted bus approached the crowd. People with banners stepped out to block the bus, while three women dove under the vehicle to lock down to it.

Locked down under the bus, the three women grabbed hands and began chanting. After police arrested three activists in front of the bus, hydraulic bolt-cutters were used to remove the women locked down under the bus. After a short while they unlocked one

woman, though still bound in with her arms and legs to the other two. Wackenhut Security tried to use pain-compliance holds on the women, but they didn't work. Finally, they unwound the woman's legs and dragged her to a nearby vehicle.

As a Wackenhut guard was trying to remove one woman, her head smacked the pavement when her U-lock was cut. He grabbed her U-lock and jerked it, whipping her head sideways, intending to drag her out with the lock. "You're hurting me!" she screamed several times. Even the Wackenhut medic yelled to the officer "Let go of the lock! Don't drag her out like that!" Finally the guard let go and dragged her out by her feet.

Activists at the entrance to the site formed a circle around an anti-nuclear flag and monitored the countdown for Rebound (the name of the sub-critical test). The sound of people weeping and sharing prayers for peace was fragmented by eruptions of static from a scanner, announcing the time until the countdown.

The arrestees were issued citations. The road blockade crew each received \$60 fines except one activist who they booked and released on his own recognizance with \$1,200 bail. Those who biked to the LYNER facility received misdemeanor trespass charges.

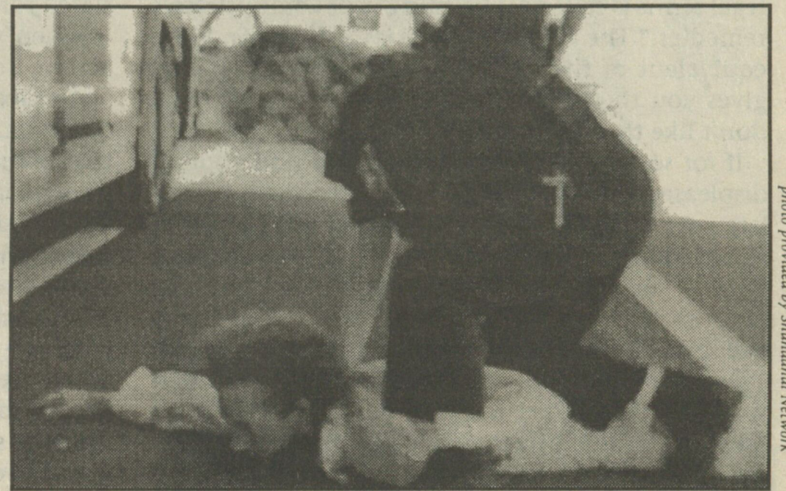
The DOE calls these proposed nuclear tests, "subcritical experiments." They claim they are not violating the CTBT because the tests are not designed to produce a self-sustaining nuclear reaction and that they need the tests to maintain the "safety and reliability" of the US nuclear arsenal. "Rebound" was placed next to conventional weapons and then detonated at a site only one hundred feet from the largest water table in southern Nevada.

The DOE originally scheduled these tests for 1996, but postponed them due to international grassroots opposition. We

need support now to help keep the media's attention on these tests and on other nuclear issues, including the continuous shipment of nuclear waste to the test site. "We are willing to continue to put our bodies on the line to stop the subcritical nuclear tests, end nuclear waste shipments, and close down the Nevada Test Site" says Julia Moon Sparrow of Shundahai Network.

The second subcritical test, "Holog," is scheduled for late August or early September. You can help to stop the tests. Call President Clinton at (202) 456-1111. Also, call your representatives at (800) 962-3524, and Energy Secretary Federico Pena at (202) 586-6210. Organize protests in your local area to educate people about these issues, and come out to the Nevada Test Site to protest. For more information, please contact Shundahai Network at (702) 647-3095.

Shundahai Network is an international collective of activists dedicated to breaking the nuclear chain. We focus on nuclear waste transportation and dumping issues, nuclear weapons testing and development, and support for Native American sovereignty struggles.



Law enforcement puts pressure on nonviolent nuke-test protestor.

photo provided by Shundahai Network

ROCKY AND THE FLYING T RANCH

BY TIM HAUGEN

The 120 square miles currently referred to as "Taylor Ranch" was originally promised to the people of San Luis as a community commons, part of the treaty that ended the Mexican-American War. Of course, once Mexican control of the land was terminated, the terms of the treaty were ignored by the American government. Still, the people of San Luis retained their traditional access to the land for subsistence purposes. This access was written into the deed purchased by Jack Taylor, descendent of President Taylor, in 1960.

As commonly happens in America, the rich man manipulated the legal system for his own benefit. He snuck off to a friendly court in Denver, 200 miles away, and had the offending stipulation removed from the deed. The people of San Luis first learned of this after when locked gates were put in place to

keep them out. The intervening years have been characterized by protest and sporadic outbursts of violence.

The protests have escalated considerably within the last year and a half, since current owner Zachary Taylor has sought to extract a maximum profit from "his" land by selling the timber rights to it. The scale of the timber sales are monstrous: some 210 million board feet over the next ten years. Virtually all of the old growth is to be removed. This significant biological corridor is being liquidated for profit. A watershed that 178 Chicano farm families depend on is being destroyed.

On June 9, the three primary access gates to Taylor Ranch were our targets. Our goal was to shut down business on the ranch for as long as possible. Before dawn, we were in place with our lock boxes, U-locks, and cement-filled barrels.

The Chama Road leads to Taylor Ranch headquarters. The legendary big pink bunnies leapt out of the sagebrush and carved a trench in the road. It was enough to force Sheriff Joe Gallegos ("Boss Hog") to get out of bed early on a Monday morning. Ranch personnel were observed pointing to people that they wanted arrested, and the sheriff complied even though the charges were baseless.

The Chama gate was a bit of a weak link in our blockade. A back hoe was called in to fill the trench, circumventing the courageous women who were locked down. Still, the women blocked access to ranch headquarters for a couple hours. Logging was stopped because the Chama Road does not access the logging site.



Salva Tu Sierra (Save Our Sierra) lockdown after Southwest Regional Rendezvous.

photo by Tim Haugen

The lockdown at San Francisco gate held for about thirty hours, effectively turning back logging crews for two days before a side-road was opened up to bypass the blockade.

At the Jaroso gate, local San Luisian Rocky Madrid U-locked himself to a cattle guard. (Rocky may be a familiar name to students of activist history. Rocky is a paramedic who was present at the American Indian Movement takeover of Wounded Knee back in the early '70s.)

Rocky maintained his lockdown for three days before the cops moved in. They forced witnesses away from the lockdown site and then proceeded to brutalize him. First, he was burned by sparks that flew from where the cops were cutting metal within an inch of Rocky's head. Then Rocky was knocked unconscious with a blow to the head and subsequently had trouble breathing. He was transported to the hospital in Alamosa, where police placed a guard around the emergency room, people who were concerned were prevented from checking on him. Sheriff Gallegos later issued a statement to the media claiming that Rocky's injuries were self-inflicted.

While the community of San Luis celebrated the Fiestas of Santiago Y Santa Ana on the last weekend of July, protesters were once again blockading the gated roads to Taylor Ranch. They have been there for over a week. Despite attempts by the police, including pain compliance holds, protesters have been unrelenting. The gates remain closed.

For information, contact Ancient Forest Rescue at (719) 672-3012. AFR maintains a permanent office in San Luis.

Speaking of which, Mr. Taylor resides in New Bern, North Carolina, well removed from the anguish that he is causing here in Colorado. It would be wonderful if he could be made a little less comfortable in his distant community.

HOW TO BE A MORE APPEALING EARTH FIRST!ER

By BUCK YOUNG

The appeals process is one of the most important tools in the Sisyphean task of trying to get the Forest Service to obey the law. You can often get timber sales modified, and sometimes you can stop them—for a while. Appeals are an important part of any campaign to reform or curb the termitic appetites of the Forest Service. It's also a good tool for getting media coverage and educating the public. Most importantly, if you don't appeal, you can't, in the immortal words of Jasper Carlton, "Sue The Bastards!" Writing appeals can be fun, and if you're in college, you may be able to get credit for it. A legendary group of Pennsylvanian Swarthmore students once stopped logging on the Allegheny Forest and brought up their GPAs in one fell swoop.

Appeals are an "administrative remedy" of the federal government, an agency's in-house review. In other words, an appeal is like a lawsuit, only the agency you're suing gets to make the ruling. You can't file a lawsuit unless you appeal first, which in legal terms is called "exhausting your administrative remedies." The appeals process is the Forest Service's equivalent of the signs on the back of trucks that gives you the truckers' boss' number to call if you don't like their driving.

If for some inexplicable reason you find yourself displeased with a Forest Service proposal to annihilate your favorite wild place, you must file a formal complaint with the Appeals Deciding Officer in the form of an appeal. If the Officer decides that the proposal is a bad idea or (heaven forbid) illegal, they will reverse the Forest Service decision. If they don't agree with you, they will confirm the decision and you will have exhausted your administrative remedies. Then, and only then, if you are still convinced the proposal is illegal, you get to sue.

How the Process Works

In order to appeal a decision by the Forest Service, you have to be involved in the entire public participation process prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Here's how to do it:

1) Pick a national forest to monitor

Each national forest is divided into neat little districts, each overseen by a district ranger. Pick a district of your forest to keep a careful eye on. The Forest Supervisor's office will provide maps upon request.

2) Write the Forest Supervisor

Request copies of the Management Area Map (MAM) for the Forest, the Forest Plan (FP) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Plan. Also, request copies of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), NEPA and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with all amendments. These are the principle laws governing the agency, and it's crucial that you be familiar with them.

3) Write the District Ranger

Ask to be put on the mailing list for all proposed management activities for that district.

What You'll Get from the Forest Service

1) The FP, EIS and Maps

You will receive the FP, the EIS and the MAM from your friendly forest supervisor, who is required by law to give you these documents free of charge.

The MAM is the best place to start. It shows the forest divided up into numbered blocks. Each of these blocks is a management area. The number in the block will correspond to a table in the EIS and the FP telling you what sort of activities are permitted in the area. You will be amazed at the number of different euphemisms that have been created to substitute for "Cut this area down, boys!" Buy yourself a set of colored pencils and color code the management area maps. Color by number. Put the protected areas in green. (You won't need a lot of green!) Your map will now look a lot different than those with the large green patches they hand out to tourists, and you will have a much better idea of what is really going on.

The FP and EIS are thick bureaucratic management documents full of charts and statistics telling you how good clearcutting is for the forest. Read through the plan. At first this will be a lot like reading a textbook in a foreign language, but do not fear. If you

can make it through the rhetoric of an *Earth First! Journal*, you can learn to understand an EIS.

2) Scoping Notices and Environmental Assessments

Scoping notices are the first stage in the "scoping process." This is the forum the Forest Service uses to tell you how good their timber sales are. Then you tell them your concerns, and they smile and thank you, and do what they planned to do in the first place. Scoping notices announce plans to the public that are supposedly in their formative stages in order to solicit input. It is essential to submit comments on the scoping notice within 30 days. They won't change their plans any, but you may get them to ask some of the right questions in their environmental assessment; and they will certainly throw out your appeal if you don't. This notification will also give you ample warning to start gathering information on a particular area of the forest slated for cutting.

When you get a notice of a proposed action, request copies of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps for the area with outlines of the forest boundaries. You'll have to pay for these (about \$2-4) at the district office or any local map or book store. Request a listing of all management activities in that area (mining, grazing, prior cuts, offerings and sales) from the district office. This will be important in proving their failure to address the cumulative effects of cutting in the area. Go to an art supply store and buy some clear plastic mylar sheets the same size as the USGS maps and a couple of permanent pens in red and black. Put all prior cuts in red on one overlay, and the proposed cuts on another overlay on top of this. Mylar overlays are useful not only because they are clear and see-through, but also because it's easy to wipe the vomit off once you take a look at what they're planning!

You'll probably have to go to the office yourself and look through the files (with their assistance, of course) to map out past activities. Don't be afraid to go to the office and meet the rangers. You'll find that for the most part, they're pretty decent folks, interested in your input. (They may even be eco-activists in disguise!)

After the scoping process is over, the ranger will put out an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA is supposed to detail and disclose to the public the considerations of alternatives to the proposed project, describe the environmental effects of those alternatives and address the concerns raised in the scoping process. EAs are supposed to present a broad range of choices and information for the deciding officer to base his/her decision on, using the most up-to-date information available. However, in absolutely every case I have seen there are documents used to justify a decision that has already been made. This is explicitly against the law.

You are required to comment on the EA, citing where, when or how it is not in accordance with the law. In a month or so, you will receive a decision notice and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) indicating that, despite your concerns, the Forest Service is completely confident that its plans to level your national forest will have nothing but positive effects for all humankind.

Now it is Time to Appeal

The best way to write an appeal is to get a free copy of *How to Appeal Forest Service Project and Activity Decisions* from The Wilderness Society (900 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20006-259). It's also helpful to get a copy of someone else's appeal to serve as a guide. Below is a rudimentary and superficial overview to give you an idea of what you're in for. In order to appeal a timber sale you must fully document all of the legal violations that concern you and send them to the appeals deciding officer at the regional office of the Forest Service within 45 days of the publication of the decision. The appeal must contain: a Notice

of Appeal, a Request for Stay, a list of Reasons and a list of Specific Changes Sought.

1) Notice of Appeal

The Notice of Appeal must start with the words: "This is an administrative action brought by (your name or organization) against (the district ranger's name, the name of the district and the name of the national forest) pursuant to 36 C.F.R. §215.7. This appeal asks the Appeals Deciding Officer to reverse the decision approving the (name of the proposal), a Forest Service proposal to (describe project). The Ranger District, on (date) issued a final decision to..."

And then some-thing like, "The proposal blatantly violates federal environmental statutes, breaks commitments the agency made to the public in its own Forest Plan, and shows an arbitrary and capricious disregard of the Forest Service's ethical and legal obligation to be a careful steward of the land owned by the American people."

You must also include information on the appellant. First, describe yourself or your organization and your interest in the project. You must

then describe the negative effects the project will have on you and/or members of your organization. Unfortunately, at this point in

history, saying that you care about the rump-bottomed snorf-grinkle and don't want it to die is not enough. You have to demonstrate that you will be directly harmed. This is called having "standing." Here's what I use: "If implemented, the (project) will do profound damage to the (aesthetic, recreational, wilderness, etc.) qualities of the area. The projects will thereby cause legal injury to the (appellants) by depriving them of their enjoyment and customary use of the land managed by the Forest Service." You must then identify the Forest Service decision-maker: "Freddie Stumpsy is employed by the USDA Forest Service as District Ranger of the Clearcut District of the Sawdust National Forest. Mr. Stumpsy is the Forest Service employee who was in charge of preparing the Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Notice (DN) for the 'Clear to The Horizon' Projects."

2) Request for Stay

The next section of the appeal is the Request for Stay. This means that you are asking the Forest Service to put a hold on the project while your appeal is under consideration. It should read something like: "Appellants request a stay for the duration of this appeal of the District Ranger's decision to approve the Clear to the Horizon Projects as described in the EA and DN/FONSI. Specifically, appellants request that the Forest Service halt the offering and awarding of the Clear to the Horizon Projects or conduct any action included therein. This stay request should be granted for the following reasons: The Clear to the Horizon Projects would irreversibly alter the existing character of the project area. Trees would be cut, remaining trees would be damaged, soil erosion and undocumented detriments to wildlife would occur and customary recreational use of the area would be drastically altered. Therefore, a decision to proceed with any of the activities of the Clear to the Horizon Project while this appeal is pending would effectively render the right to a meaningful review moot. Therefore, this request for stay should be granted."

3) Reasons

In this section you must list all of the reasons that you object to the timber sale. The appeals process was originally designed to be a simple means of addressing public concern and modifying proposals. All the Forest Service really cares about now is whether or not they think you would win in a lawsuit against them. It's your job to convince them that you would. In this section you need to list all of the sections of the NEPA, NFMA and the ESA that will be violated by the proposal and explain why. Carefully read over these laws and the Forest Service EA and you're bound to

continued on next page

Paper Wrench at Reynolds Creek

BY ASANTÉ RIVERWIND

In 1993, gas-guzzling lime green vehicles of the Malheur National Forest Service rolled through the Reynolds Creek subwatershed in the Prairie City Ranger District. Freddiesequipped with hard hats (for fear a tree might fall upon them in revenge?), they left an inane "game board" of "unit" boundary markers and paint streaked trees in their wake. Blue for death, or in other "units"—a few orange marked ones as "leave trees."

In 1995, the Forest "Service" excreted the Mossy Timber Sale in this subwatershed's recovering old-growth forests. A salvage hoax? The Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project surveyed the area, exposing their logging-oriented lies and threatening lawsuits on numerous agency violations of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

As all but the self-deluded agencies, timber profiteers and sawdust-fogged individuals readily realize, you can't create "forest health" by making stumps out of living trees, especially old-growth trees. Like the emperor wearing no clothes, the Forest Service was standing stupidly naked with no credible science to back its claims. However, our appeal was denied, and the lawsuit that includes this sale is being sullenly sat upon by stump-extraordinaire Federal Judge Michael Hogan in Eugene.

Now Mossy has been sold. But the Forest Service, never content to allow old-growth forest "resources" to be "wasted" on unproductive jobless wildlife, has culled from the dropped units of the Mossy sale yet a new "industrially improved" old-growth timber sale—the Reynolds sale. Apparently the agency, inspired and feeling chainsaw-happy in the stump-ridden aftermath of the Salvage-hoax Rider's reign of '96, decided to make a new sale out of units their biologists had dropped from the Mossy sale. These units were dropped due to wildlife habitat degradation, declining bull trout populations, riparian value and other legal concerns.

"Forest health" they say. Yeah, sure. In this high elevation, moist forest there are co-dominant ancient fir trees hundreds of years old growing amongst the ancient ponderosas and huge, decaying, fallen giants of both. Fire suppression? Here? At this elevation—around 6,000 feet—so near the oft' lightning-stricken rounded top of this mountain ridge? Fire crews would either have to be continually encamped, patiently waiting the lightning or be warp-speed teleported, equipment and all, to be able to successfully "suppress" any fires up there.

Contrary to all the piles of agency "professional experts" as well as the Forest Service's own Envi-

ronmental Assessment (EA), this area was not a ponderosa pine park-like stand. It was, and continues to be, a mixed conifer forest mosaic of ponderosa pine/fir spiced with a fair amount of larch. "Forest health?" these forests are vibrantly green. "Dead or dying" trees comprise less than 10 percent of the area, well within the range of natural variability. The ancient forests of the Reynolds sale area provide clear, cool waters to the streams below, tributaries to the John Day River system which support some of the few remaining wild salmon runs in the lower 48 states.

Two appeals, three years and an ongoing lawsuit later, we find ourselves standing again in the Reynolds creek forest, this time with the hardhat-wearing Freddie. It seems they want to negotiate. Negotiate. Not on the sold but as yet uncut, Mossy sale, but on the Reynolds sale. Apparently our recent appeal has "a couple of points" which stopped their sale dead. Seems they "forgot" to do a competent watershed analysis for bull trout. Seems they also picked two alternatives—making two sales out of one EA and "forgot" to analyze the combined effects of both of them.

Sometimes, when you catch them at enough blatant violations, and stuff their papers back at them in the form of appeals, they start to choke on their own messes. So they start offering deals: they'll drop 70 percent of the sale, including most of the units along Reynolds Creek. They just want us to let them cut 500 plus acres—and they'll even sign an agreement not to do another sale in the area for, get this, five whole years! Wow, cough, gag... Oh, and no, they had said, we can't get in to see the area first—ah, because the road is blocked by snow, deep snow, and the lower part of the road is soft with mud, deep mud, very bad, can't possibly get in to see it, no. They wrote us a proposed deal, so we sent it back for a rewrite, buying time past their scheduled deadlines.

We sought advice from other organizations that had "negotiated" with Freddie many times before. Some stated that, given the harsh reality of a corrupt Forest Service and corporate just-us courts, what the Freddie's were offer was potentially a victory for the forests and us. But mostly, for the final word, we sought advice from the forest itself. Despite the harsh reality of the *koyaanisqatsi* (out of balance) human societal systems, the forest sang clearly—NO DEAL, No Compromise, No More Ancient Forest Stumps—NO WAY!!

Now the forests have another year before the paint marks and saws of industry threaten them again. Ultimately, however, with each "sale" the agency gets through we are losing irreplaceable pieces of nature. Ultimately, and the sooner the better, we need zero commercial logging in the national forests—too much has been cut already and too many wild species are in decline. This agency of computer paper pushers would do far less damage if reassigned to managing malls—or developing documents for the dismantling of Wall Street.

Meanwhile there are several old-growth and roadless area sales that we are working to keep from being logged. Our project needs help from letter writers, attorneys, outreach organizers, fundraisers and self-sufficient volunteers to help hike the sales, survey, appeal and stop the continuing onslaught of illegal sales. We also teach activists how to effectively give voice to the wild in their own bioregions. (Contact the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project at HCR 82, Fossil, Oregon 97830.)

Your letters really do make a difference! Please write the addresses below insisting that the Forest Service cease logging essential old-growth habitat and drop all of the sales listed below:

In the Malheur National Forest: Reynolds Creek, Clear Creek, Genesis, Trio, Fawn, Billy, Scotty, Van Aspen, Starr, Aldrich Roadless Area, SF Deer, Guard, Jobs, Billy II, Summit, Todd Roadless Area, Utley Butte Roadless Area, Badger, Night/Fox Roadless Area, Mossy, Hem, and, if its not already too late: Vincent Vinegar, Myrtle Point, Cove and Blade.

In the Umatilla National Forest: Camas, Oasis, Tower Fire, Buzzard Roadless Area, Yellow Rose,

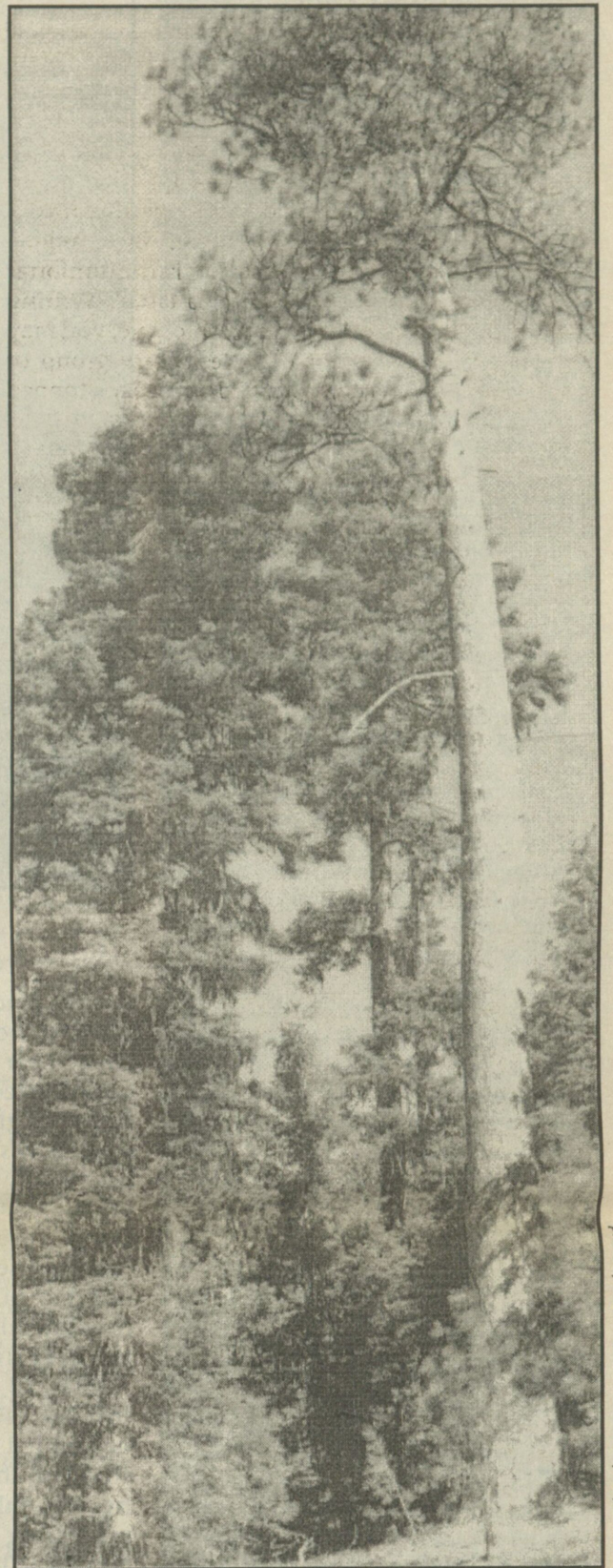


photo by Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

Old growth habitat in the Reynolds Sale

Hollywood/Texas Roadless Area, Mallory, and, if its not already too late: East End and Wheeler Point.

These are just two of the national forests in eastern Oregon—there are many, many more timber sales in essential habitats in national forests across the nation. This is the real "forest health crisis." Nature is not committing ecocide. These forests have survived for millennium without the man-aging of agency "experts." It is beyond time we insist on an end to the madness of this industrial assault on wild nature. No more commercial logging destruction of public lands. No more corporate welfare at the expense of the heritage of future generations and the last remaining homes of the wild. ¡Basta!

Please write, call, protest, occupy, re-assign or ???:
President Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500; (202) 456-2724. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, and Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, USDA, 14th & Independence SW, Washington DC 20250; (202) 720-3631; fax (202) 720-2166. Robert Williams, Region 6, Regional Forester, 333 SW 1st, Portland, Oregon 97208. Carl Pence, Malheur Supervisor's Office, POB 909, John Day, OR 97845; (541) 575-3000. Senator Ron Wyden, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; (202) 224-3753 or (541)330-9142 in Bend, OR. Jeff Blackwood/Tom Reilly, Umatilla Supervisor's Office, 2517 SW Hailey Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801; (541) 278-3720.

APPEALING EF!ER

continued from previous page

explain why. Carefully read over these laws and the Forest Service EA and you're bound to find the Forest Service has once again acted in willful disregard of congressional mandates. Let them know you're watching, you care, you caught them and you're not going to shut up about it. Again, its really helpful to have the Wilderness Society booklet and another appeal to give you ideas.

4) Specific Changes Sought

This is the final section. In it you tell the Forest Service what you want them to do instead of what they've proposed. Just list your demands, e.g.: Rescind the Decision Notice for the Clear to the Horizon Project; stay the implementation of all planned activities associated with the Decision Notice for the Clear to the Horizon Project; manage the National Forest in accordance with the law. That's it.

Now, go to it, have fun and tell'em Buck sent ya'!

Buck Young shut down all the timber sales in the Green Mountain National Forest.

BARE BONES

Jaguar Gets Listing— USFWS Lies

In 1994, the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity won a lawsuit requiring the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to propose the jaguar as endangered. The agency sat on its hands until the Southwest Center won a second lawsuit in 1997 requiring a final decision. The agency then scrambled to put together a highly controversial conservation agreement explicitly designed to take the place of real protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Widespread opposition to the plan and litigation pressure ousted their plan as a substitute for an ESA listing.

On July 17, 1997, after prolonged delays, the USFWS listed the magnificent cat throughout its entire historic range, including endangered status in Arizona, New Mexico, California and Louisiana, and threatened status in Texas. The listing states that a recovery plan will be prepared since current conservation plans are inadequate.

In a vain attempt to influence the media prior to the release of the official listing, the USFWS sent out a fraudulent press release implying that the jaguar has not been listed as Endangered in California and Louisiana and directly stating that no recovery plan will be prepared.

Pacific Lumber Co. Sued

Stan Chandler, a former logger with the Pacific Lumber Company (PLC) is suing his ex-employer for several environmental and safety violations, including the illegal cutting of ancient forest. In his suit he alleges that he was ordered to cut trees to block the entry of regulatory agency officials to sites where the illegal logging was taking place.

Court Rules Unocal Polluted Illegally

A federal judge ruled that Unocal violated federal and state laws when its refineries discharged toxic selenium into San Francisco Bay, a ruling that could cost the company tens of millions of dollars. The decision by Chief US District Judge Thelton Henderson was a setback for Unocal's attempt to limit its liability with a \$780,000 settlement with state regulators. The ruling subjects Unocal to potential federal fines of \$50 million or more, loss of any profits it made from illegal activities, and possible court orders to reduce discharges.

Forest Service Ignores Logging Injunction

On July 22, the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity filed a temporary restraining order against the Kaibab National Forest to halt the illegal logging of the Bridger Salvage Sales on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. As of press time, a ruling has not been issued.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals issued an injunction in May shutting down all timber sales in Arizona and New Mexico's national forests that are inconsistent with recently amended Forest Plans. Kaibab National Forest officials, however, ignored the injunction and allowed logging to continue in the Bridger Timber Sales, claiming that salvage sales are exempt from the Forest Plan's mandate to leave at least three to five adjacent trees per acre on all timber sales. The Bridger sales involve clearcutting nearly 3,000 acres.

Nuxalk Indians Busted Protecting Ista

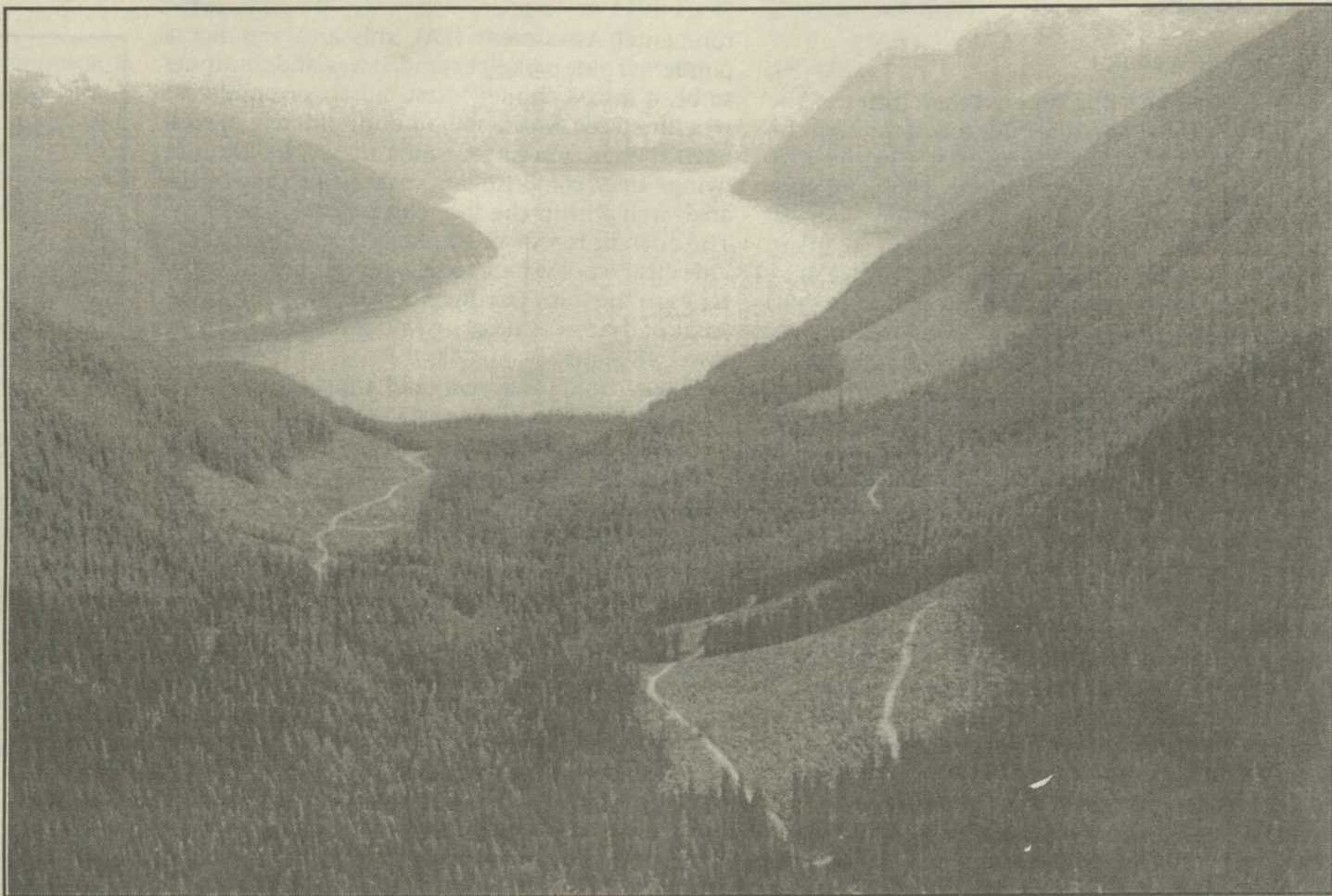


photo by Heinz Ruckemann

Interfor clearcuts on Ista

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It is the place, according to Nuxalk creation myth, where the first woman descended to Earth. Ista is part of the Great Bear Rainforest, the largest contiguous area of unprotected rainforest in British Columbia and is a forest of global ecological significance. Satellite mapping shows that half of the world's temperate rainforest has already been destroyed and that temperate rainforests are more endangered than tropical rainforests. International Forest Products is the second largest company logging the rainforest and has licenses to log the largest number of intact rainforest valleys on the coast. Approximately half these valleys will be roaded or logged in the next five years.

After 22 days of blockading and much pressure by Interfor, 40 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) descended on Ista at dawn. Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas stood on the blockade to greet them and explained how he was fulfilling his duty as a hereditary chief and protecting his land. RCMP arrested him and four other Nuxalk. They also arrested 14 others who had linked their arms together.

Collette Schooner remained hanging in the tripod along with Marlene Van Poeck, a Flemish environmentalist. "My mother has been arrested for protecting Ista. My grandfather was arrested too," Collette explained. "Now I am here for the youth and future generations to stop the clearcutting of this sacred forest." A RCMP climbing team ascended the tripod to extract and arrest them. Wim van der Vyver was locked into a lockbox buried in the road, set in concrete into which he was handcuffed. Four RCMP surrounded him and used fear, intimidation and torture as they applied pain holds to his neck until he finally unlocked himself.

Finally, RCMP climbers arrived at the grapple yarder, where Patricia Fromm and Shaila Healey had been hanging in for days, locked onto the structure. A locksmith was brought to the scene and was successful in picking locks, leaving the climbing cops to lower the activists down to the ground.

As the last resister was escorted to the awaiting RCMP boat, the next protest began. This time a logging barge taking logs from a valley further south was boarded by Greenpeace activists who successfully stopped the exports of logs out of the region for four days.

Though the price will no doubt be high for those who had the courage to stand up against Interfor and its destructive and disrespectful logging, it is a small price to pay in defense of the Great Bear Rainforest. Though clearcutting at Ista continues, other pristine valleys remain intact even though Interfor had plans to build roads in them this year. Valleys such as Johnston River and K'Iskwatsta Creek remain untouched, in part because we have been successful in making Interfor pay for

their actions. No longer is the Great Bear Rainforest some unknown place on BC's coast, with only First Nations people and fishermen around to view the carnage of clearcut logging. Now we have focused an international spotlight on the region. If Interfor or any other company tries to move into a pristine valley, the world will bear witness. But until we can work towards an ecologically sustainable economy here in BC, we have to keep the spotlight bright and focused. The only way we can do that is by continuing to work with our natural allies, and by calling on the world for support.

Here is what you can do to help:

Write Premier Glen Clark at R. 156, Legislative Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4 Canada; (250) 387-1715.

Send a donation to help the Nuxalk in their struggle to House of Smayusta, Box 8, Bella Coola, BC, V0T 1C0 Canada.

Volunteer your time and energy. Whether organizing slideshows, fundraising in your community or helping out on the front lines, help is always needed. Call Dayna Chapman, FAN Volunteer Coordinator at (250) 799-5800.

Join the Forest Action Network by writing to Box 625, Bella Coola, Canada, V0T 1C0, Canada. (250) 799-5800, fax (250) 799-5830; <http://www.fanweb.org>.

Gavin Edwards has worked with Forest Action Network for years. He is now working with BC Greenpeace, claiming he will donate lots of money to FAN.

Violence Hits Bella Coola Campaign

In Bella Coola where environmental and native groups on King Island have had ongoing blockades, local pro-loggers have threatened and attacked environmentalist.

A mob of angry anti-environmentalists assaulted at least three people. One woman was assaulted then pushed into the water. Another woman, who was filming the violence, was assaulted by two men, her video-camera smashed and thrown into the water. Later that evening, a cook from a local cafe was attacked for professing to "like trees." Another environmentalist had his car windows smashed. These anti-environmentalists even desecrated the grave of an activist who died two years ago.

On July 13, a mob boarded the *MV Starlet*, a boat owned by two local environmental groups, and burned a flag given to them by Head Hereditary Chief Nuximlayc (Lawrence Pootlass). The flag was being flown at the request of environmental supporters from the Nuxalk Nation who had invited activists into their territory to help protect the logging of many rainforest valleys.

LESSONS FROM WARNER CREEK

continued from page 3

an ideal, to establish a new society, to break the molds of the outdated, and to achieve, finally, the social justice for which they fight (my italics).

Ché is telling us to think big. Here's an example: Some comrades and I used to do campaigns in the Coast Range of Oregon. Blocked a lot of roads, mixed a lot of concrete, you know the drill. And partly due to our efforts, a lot of those trees were saved. So, we get a letter from the Forest Service a month ago that they're going to replace that timber volume from the Siuslaw National Forest with trees from a sale right up against Bunchgrass Ridge, 'bout 50 miles east of Eugene, just north of Oakridge...

Yep, that's right. Right out of the heart of the Warner Creek drainage.

You see, Freddie's got orders to take a certain amount of timber volume out of a specific region. If we stop them in one spot, they'll take the volume from somewhere else. Our hell-raising can have significant impact on decisions made about individual timber sales. And we can cost them a lot of money and draw media attention to what's going on in the woods. But we do not strategically impact policy-making; we do not influence the bottom-line decisions of the government-industry complex. We have usable tactics; we do not have an effective strategy.

Warner Creek *did* have a strategic impact on the Salvage Rider. The massive media attention to logging on public lands, the ameliorative effects of the Glickman directive, Clinton's ultimate decision to forego salvage logging plans at Warner were a direct result of the efforts of no-compromise activists. Why have subsequent actions failed to have the same kind of effect? Back to Ché:

The guerrilla fighter needs full help from the people of the area. This is an indispensable condition. This is clearly shown by considering the case of bandit gangs that operate in a region. They have all the characteristics of a guerrilla army, homogeneity, respect for the leader, valor, knowledge of the ground, and often, even good understanding of the tactics to be

employed. The only thing missing is support of the people; and inevitably, these gangs are captured and exterminated by the public force.

The most crucial element of the Warner campaign was massive support from, well, the masses. Hundreds attended rallies for Warner, thousands gave food, money and gear, and tens of thousands sent letters to officials expressing their outrage at plans to salvage-log the Cornpatch Roadless Area.

The activists on the road didn't physically prevent the loggers from getting at the trees; a grassroots movement created conditions that would have made rolling over that forest too embarrassing for them to try. Not to downplay the role of the jail-bait that was there on the road day in and day out—they were one of the most important pieces of the puzzle. But an equally important piece was the literally years of organizing and agitating that built a movement to defend Warner long before the first pick bit into good ol' FS road 2408.

The Cuban Revolution of Ché Guevara and Fidel Castro was a lot like Warner Creek. Insurgents struggled for years to create the "subjective conditions"—a mass consciousness among the people that prepared them for revolutionary struggle—before attempting to overthrow the state. Surprisingly, Ché ignored his own advice in *Guerrilla Warfare* and came to believe that a guerrilla *foco*, a "hard core of thirty to fifty men," could single-handedly bring down the *ancien régime* in every Latin American country by inspiring the unorganized masses to revolution by their heroic example. The Guevarist inspired revolutions in Latin America largely failed using this model, and Guevara himself was captured and executed by American-backed forces in Bolivia.

A hard core of thirty to fifty activists in the Pacific Northwest cannot gain popular support with direct action alone. Direct action is a means to an end, not an end unto itself. "The masses" will not be inspired to action by our example; they will become alienated by distorted media coverage and jaded by a message without a context in their own experience. We need to

create the subjective conditions for struggle by putting in the pre-campaign footwork that makes campaigns successful in the long term. Part of this might mean participating in the system's "remedies"—exhausting our legal and administrative options and rallying public support against particularly egregious projects. If these avenues fail (and they will probably fail because the system is rotten), then we will have "maximized the internal contradictions of the system"—a fancy Marxist phrase that means that it's now painfully obvious to everyone that the system is hopeless.

When we start with the basics, when we start with organizing and agitating, then we are reaching people. When their Congressperson ignores their well-worded and cogently argued letter, *then* a person is radicalized. You don't get radicalized by watching someone locked to a bulldozer on TV. You get radicalized by the results of your own unmediated experience. One last piece of advice from Ché:

People must see clearly the futility of maintaining the fight for social goals within the framework of civil debate. When the forces of oppression come to maintain themselves in power against established law, peace is considered already broken.

In these conditions popular discontent expresses itself in more active forms. An attitude of resistance finally crystallizes itself ... provoked initially by the conduct of the authorities.

We need to engage people with education and outreach and empower them by direct contact with our movement. At present I see people in this movement running around from timber sale to timber sale—with the best possible intentions, but without a clear overall objective in mind. I'm not down on free states as a tactic. I advocate this tactic as part of an overall strategy. When we organize a mass movement around defense of wild places this tactic will become effective.

Let's get busy, because time is running out.

Tafflufma is actually two people: Fluffhead and Tahoma. They are telepathically linked over great distances.

Feinstein's motives appear to be twofold. She's running for the governorship of her state in 1998 and thus is eager to show that she can look after the interests of the rural lobbies. She is also eager to show that she can handle the big environmental groups.

The tempo will now pick up. Feinstein wants to fast-track her Senate bill, so that legislation will be ready for President Clinton to sign when he presides over the Lake Tahoe environmental summit on July 26.

Make no mistake about it, if the Quincy Library bill goes through the Senate it will set a terrible model as legislation that claims to protect the forest while it mandates a doubling of logging. As a seasoned congressional staffer said: "This is the kind of bill congress would love to vote on every day. It's like the federal highway program, only in this case the porkbarrel is clearcuts instead of freeways."

[Ed. note: On July 26, the Senate vote was put off until September, and Clinton patted Feinstein on the back and wished Quincy Library-style compromise on all the national forests across the country. Call your Senator NOW!]

BARE BONES

Protection Sought for Great Plains Sparrow

In late June, the Biodiversity Legal Foundation (BLF) filed a formal petition with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list and protect the Baird's Sparrow as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Once abundant and widespread in the northern Great Plains, it is now estimated that the sparrow's population levels have fallen 95 percent—a drop that corresponds directly with the ongoing loss of suitable grassland habitat.

The rarity of this songbird is a sign of broader environmental problems in the grasslands of the Great Plains, including extensive livestock grazing, hay harvesting, irrigation, use of pesticides, invasion of exotic species and fire suppression.

Prairie Grasslands are now considered by biologists to be one of the most endangered and least protected ecosystems in North America. As a group, populations of grassland-dependent bird species have declined more dramatically, more consistently and over a more geographically widespread area than any other group of North American birds in the last quarter century.

The USFWS has until late September to issue a preliminary finding as to the merit of the petition.

Six States Fail to Protect Great Lakes

The National Wildlife Federation has filed a lawsuit to force the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement a set of uniform water quality standards for the Great Lakes, known as the Great Lakes Initiative. According to the lawsuit, six states have failed to protect the Great Lakes from poisonous pollution.

The Great Lakes Initiative, required by Congress under the Clean Water Act, is designed to protect the health of the people, fish and wildlife of the Great Lakes basin from toxic pollutants. To date, only Indiana and Wisconsin have adopted the new standards. The remaining six states, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, have yet to adopt standards and to submit the new standards to the EPA for approval.

Among the pollutants addressed by the Initiative are PCBs, dioxin and mercury. These toxins are known to cause cancer, kidney and liver poisoning, respiratory problems, nerve damage and developmental disorders. The Great Lakes have the world's largest concentration of pulp and paper companies.

Goshawk Decision Overturned—Again

A Federal judge has again overturned a US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) decision to deny the western US population of the northern goshawk protection under the Endangered Species Act. The judge also reprimanded the USFWS for taking "an action which was sure to guarantee future litigation."

The implications of the ruling include greater protection of old-growth forests since the goshawk inhabits almost every old-growth forest not already inhabited by spotted owl. Additionally, the ruling throws out Clinton's policy that limits population status to imperiled species.

National Forests

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forests. These firebreaks are grotesquely wide—no less than 440 yards across. In fact, they are clearcut avenues that will fragment some of the last contiguous habitat in California. In other words, a major ecological disaster, particularly for wildlife that depend on unbroken expanses of forest.

The Congressional Budget Office reckons that this firebreak logging program will cost the taxpayer about \$83 million a year. That's the subsidy it will take to plan 300 million board feet of timber sales a year. The Forest Service is ordered to raid other accounts, such as wildlife management and recreation, to foot the bill. The profits from the timber sales will go to companies such as Sierra Pacific and Collins Pine—not the taxpayer.

The Quincy Library Group bill had been kicking around Capitol Hill for about a year, had been attacked by nearly every environmental group and seemed doomed. But then suddenly it found its way to the floor of the House

where, on July 9, it passed by the astounding margin of 429 to 1, the lone dissenter being Ron Paul, the Texan libertarian who denounced the bill as nothing more than a looting of public assets and the below-cost selling of timber from federal lands. Which it is.

Days before the vote in the House, the leadership of the big national green groups had been solicited by Senator Feinstein of California. She told them that the Quincy bill was going to move speedily through the House and then she was going to maneuver it just as expeditiously through the Senate. Feinstein said she needed a commitment from the big green organizations not to sabotage this plan.

If any one group in the country should oppose logging in the California Sierra it is surely Muir's offspring, the Sierra Club. But Carl Pope, executive director of the Club parleyed with Feinstein and, it seems, threw in the towel. How else to explain that the Club's lobbyists could not muster any votes against the bill in the House? (Paul, the only true maverick in the Congress, certainly didn't take his lead from the Club.)

Zero-Cut Action Roundup

COMPILED BY JAMES BARNES

On June 4, 1997, activists from around the United States gathered at more than twenty-five Forest Service supervisor's offices, regional offices and Federal buildings to protest 100 years of logging on our national forests. The 1897 passage of the "Organic Act" amended the charter of what was known then as the Forest Reserve System to allow logging.

This so-called "act" was not actually stand-alone legislation, but the first logging rider, buried in Congress' 1897 spending bill. Until then the Forest Reserves had been off-limits to any timber harvest since their creation in 1891. As a result of public outcry, they were formed out of federal land precisely to keep the rapacious timber barons from stripping western forests the way they had done in the northern Great Lakes region and the eastern hardwood forests before them. Gifford Pinchot pushed for logging in the Forest Reserves, although he recognized that "...the law aimed to save the timber for the use of the people, and to hold the mountain forests as great sponges to give out steady flows of water for use in the fertile valleys below." He shamelessly used fear of fire in the forests to push his utilitarian (wise use, if you will) agenda: "Congress ... made no provision for their use or their protection. The timber was simply locked up and left to burn." Though Pinchot wrote these lines in 1907, the rhetoric of "log it or lose it" remains unchanged.

Since then, the "used and protected" national forests are in a state of crisis. Less than five percent of original native forests remain standing, while old-growth-dependent species, species that require large, roadless expanses of forest cover and clean, cool water, are in precipitous decline. National forest destruction is paid for by taxpayers, to the tune of \$1.3 billion in 1996 alone for the Forest Service's logging program. Yet the timber cut from public lands was equivalent to only 3.9 percent of the total US annual consumption. We dumped three times that amount into landfills.

In a time of budgetary restraints to achieve deficit reduction, this subsidy represents a massive giveaway of public assets—the destruction of our natural heritage for short-term corporate profit.

Hence the June 4 Day of Action. To mark the occasion, the John Muir Project and 15 other Zero Cut organizations took out a full page ad in the *New York Times* citing a century of destructive practices and ballooning corporate subsidies. The conservation groups called for a complete ban on logging as a first step toward restoring

the ecological health of our nation's forests and watersheds.

Rally participants called for an end to timber sales on federal public lands—lands that have been severely degraded by a century of subsidized clearcutting and roadbuilding. Organizers also launched a new national campaign to end logging on public lands. To that end, activists have been working with US Congresswoman



Lockdown shuts down Forest Service research office in Seattle.

Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) to introduce the "National Forest Protection and Restoration Act" (NFPRA), which will end all timber sales on federal public lands nationwide and redirect timber subsidies into worker retraining and ecological restoration.

From Montgomery, Alabama to Lexington, Kentucky; from Flagstaff, Arizona to Ogden, Utah, folks gathered to let the Feds know that a hundred years was enough, and time for federal clearcutting was running out. From a compilation of press clippings and reports from activists around the country, this is how the day of action went in just a few places across America:

Harrisburg, Illinois

Several eco groups rallied at the Shawnee National Forest Supervisor's Office, where "Doctor Smokey Bear" said, "Logging Is Not Good 4 Forest Health."

"It's the anniversary of one of the most devastating acts in our history," said Jim Bensman of the Sierra Club's Shawnee National Forest Committee. The local focus of the rally was on the "ecological" logging and burning of 3,785 acres of forestland, despite a current court order against commercial logging on the Shawnee.

Under the watchful eyes of the cops, the Forest Service locked the dozen or so environmentalists out of the forest headquarters building, but let in media.

Bedford, Indiana

Indiana Forest Alliance and Heartwood attempted to occupy the office of the Hoosier National Forest Supervisor. Brad Horn and Dave Brodin were arrested and charged with trespassing for trying to get through the locked building's front doors as a police officer entered. Claiming that they were "concerned about everybody's

safety," the Freddie's refused to allow more than one person into the building at a time.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

In front of a noisy, sign-waving crowd at the Southwestern Regional Headquarters, Smokey—waving the American flag—got on the roof and hung a three-story banner that read: "Stop logging public lands!—Zero Cut."

The activists went into the building to let the head of timber sale planning know that it was all over. Southwestern activists have kept the Forest Service paralyzed for nearly two years, and this is only the beginning, they say. They quote Goethe: "Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now."

Oregon

Cave Junction: Activists held a pancake breakfast and then blocked a road and locked down to a logging truck on the way to the notorious China Left timber sale. They kept traffic at a standstill for three hours until law enforcement cleared them away. Sucker Creek, which runs through the China Left sale, is a critical summer habitat area for the now-listed coho salmon. Logging roads washed out and dumped tons of sediment into the creek last winter, yet more logging continues...

Eugene: In a great guerrilla theater skit, Ripped-Off Van Winkle, representing the American taxpayer, battled his arch-nemesis, the Timber Beast, along with Vinnie the Fire Boy and many other speakers. Everyone had a great time. The riot cops stayed discreetly at a distance.

Portland: Zero Cut Doughnuts and Bagels were distributed and a "zero circle" of 120 people formed a ring around the Forest Service Building, chanting "Zero cut on public land!" Over a dozen police officers, some on horseback, blocked the building entrance to all but employees.

Warren, Pennsylvania

At the Allegheny National Forest headquarters, protesters carried signs reading "Stumps don't lie—100 years is too many," "Stop logging on public lands!," "Synthetic herbicides are not safe," and "Honk if you love the Allegheny!" Demonstrators handed out leaflets and put on street theater about freeing Smokey Bear from his public relations post for the US Forest Service. Matt Peters of Athens, Ohio, a member of the Buckeye Forest Council, said the Allegheny is quite capable of managing itself, and asked for "just a few areas where life is protected ... a reservoir of native plants and animals, many of which are missing from the landscape."

Seattle, Washington

Five activists from Seattle Earth First!, the Pacific Crest Biodiversity Project and Olympia Earth First! were arrested at the University of Washington Forest Service Research Facility.

The women used U-locks to lock their necks to an electrical conduit inside the Forest Service office. About fifty activists with banners and signs showed their support outside. Two men occupied the billboard area above the Forest Service building with a huge banner reading, "100 Years is Enough! End Logging on Public Lands. Earth First!"

Later that evening, they descended upon the Bellevue Art Museum, located in the heart of the American capitalist sewer, the Bellevue Mall. Upon arriving, the activists were "greeted" almost immediately by security and the Bellevue police, who remained loyal escorts for the rest of the evening. Over 30 activists attended an event at the museum which included an exhibit on the "wonders of plywood" and a panel discussion on the future of our forests in the year 2050. The panel was composed of David "the Crook" Crook of Plum Creek Timber Company (Checkerboard fame), Ken "Hide the Clearcuts" Conignsark of Mountains to Sound Greenway (a Boeing project), and a Weyerhaeuser representative, who was mysteriously lost in a timely traffic jam. Hmmmmm...

Industry Response:

As a measure of our success, the timber industry and their purchased politicians scrambled to cobble up a response. From Washington, DC, Republican representative John T. Doolittle criticized environmental groups: "It is unfortunate that the environmental community continues to spew misinformation to the media rather than addressing the true facts about public lands logging," he said. "Common sense tells us that taking more land out of production means less timber will be cut, thereby requiring less people to cut timber."

We can only hope, Congressman Doolittle.

An anonymous industry group also helpfully prepared a list of counter-assertions to the Zero Cutters. Among them they claim that only 17 miles of road were built in the US on Forest Service lands in 1996 "from appropriated funds." In their exasperation they spluttered "The only thing the Sierra Club isn't claiming is that logging causes cancer in laboratory rats."

Well, our dedicated researchers are hard at work releasing lab rats, so perhaps we'll never know. But I, for one, believe it.

For their parting shot, they printed, in caps, "RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT HARVESTING ON PUBLIC LANDS."

Here's to irresponsibility, and thanks for everyone's help in making June 4 a great (first annual?) event!

Mr. James Barnes is currently working on the Zero Cut campaign. He is a long-time *EF!*er and contributor to the *Journal*.

Will a Slug Stop the Saws?

BY FRANCIS EATHERINGTON

A very rare slug, *Prophysaon coeruleum* (the blue-grey tail-dropper), has been discovered on at least two timber sales in the Bureau of Land Management's Roseburg District. This is a "survey and manage" species of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The Natural Heritage Network rates this slug as "critically imperiled," one of the rarest species most in need of protection. Appendix J2 of the Forest Plan says of the slug: "Species was originally widely distributed," but "No locations are currently known." This rare slug, occurring along with a rare lichen previously discovered in the Cobble Creek timber sale, signifies an extremely unique ecosystem. These kinds of low elevation old-growth forests are quickly disappearing, making the finding even more unique and significant.

The Cobble Creek timber sale is a controversial sale and the site of past protests by activists. In 1996, the BLM decided to log 110 acres of ancient forests on Cobble Knob, one of the last old-growth forests in the area, under the terms of the Salvage Rider. Protesters blocked loggers from cutting sample

trees for the purpose of estimating their market value. Soon after, *Nephroma occultum*, a rare lichen, was discovered in the tree tops of some of the ancient fallen trees. The BLM was forced to cancel the auction in order to survey and develop a "management" strategy for the lichen. Surveys will be conducted this summer.

A spur road near where the slug was discovered will kill dozens of trees over

way will change their plans.

Incredibly, BLM still wants to auction off the Cobble Creek Timber Sale later this summer after the lichen surveys are complete. This sale is "likely to adversely affect" the Umpqua cut-throat trout, protected under the Endangered Species Act. The National Marine Fisheries Service debated for over 9 months on the Cobble Creek timber sale consultation, but recently

granted the BLM an incidental take permit to proceed with the sale and the reduction of endangered salmonid species populations.

A blue-grey tail-dropper slug was also spotted in the BLM Dream Weaver timber sale. Dream Weaver is a portion of the Louis Weaver timber sale. The slug was discovered sometime in 1996. Yet when we requested the sale wildlife information in May 1997, no mention of rare slugs was included.

We only became aware of this important component of the timber sale when we received district-wide information about the slug on July 5, 1997.

The Louis Weaver timber sale will clearcut 9 million board feet of old growth (1,800 logging trucks). Some of this was sold under the Salvage Rider, which exempted it from environmen-

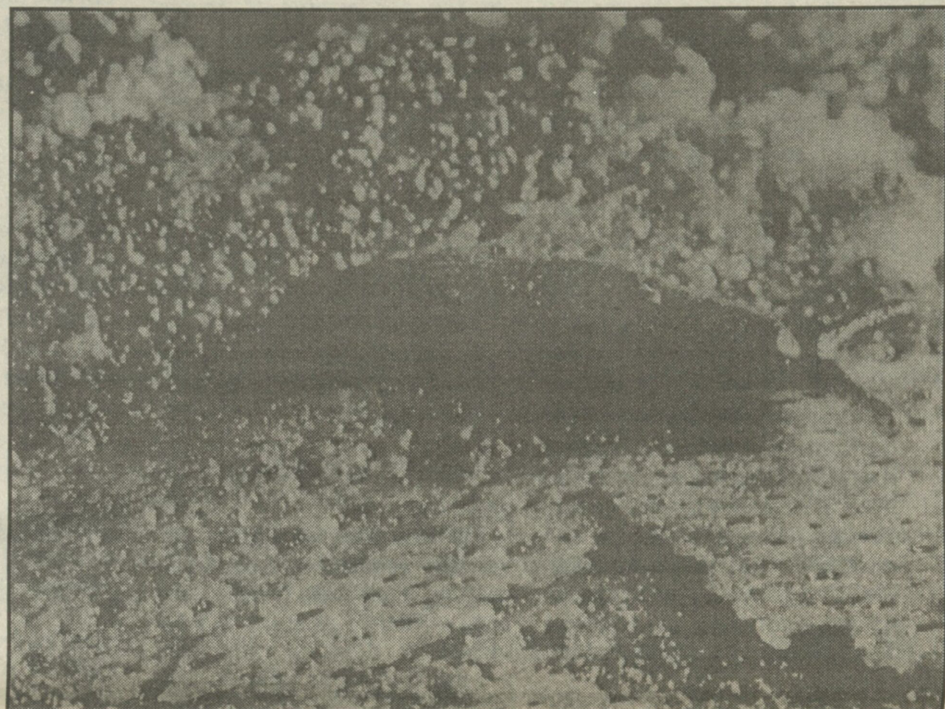
tal laws. The remainder to be sold this summer is called "Dream Weaver."

A BLM biologist surveying the area wrote a memo to the area manager about the rare slug in Dream Weaver on January 13, 1997: "I have done three days of surveys for this C-3 mollusk species in Unit 1 of this timber sale. No further surveys will be done in any sales with completed EAs (Environmental Assessments) as per your instructions..." But before the biologist was apparently told to stop looking, she had found at least three specimens of the slug and directed the sale planners to buffer the sites with 160 foot radius no-cut zones. "No harvesting or yarding will be allowed within these buffers."

This sale is also likely to adversely affect the endangered Umpqua cut-throat trout, and the purchaser has been given an incidental take (kill) permit for the fish, as well as for five spotted owls.

The discovery of a rare slug in these timber sales is indicative of the rarity of the entire ecosystems that Roseburg BLM continues to clearcut. What else is there we haven't yet looked for, and what significance do these mysterious creatures have on human habitat? The slimy trail of the slug illustrates the ugly nature of government sponsored industrial forestry; practices that construct temporary roads that last one year and kill 540 year old trees, and may just decimate a remnant rare species habitat that will never grow back. These are public forests and public slugs. Yet public agencies remain committed to industrial mining of the public's most valuable interests.

The black and blue tail-kicking Francis Eatherington is a rare and often endangered species out of Roseburg, OR.



Yes, the blue-grey tail dropper does drop its tail when it's grabbed by a predator.

Photo by John F. Applegrath

an intermittent creek. Many of these trees are five to six feet in diameter. One of these trees was cut down to "test" its market value. It was 540 years old! The BLM claims this road would be "temporary," and clearcutting 30' wide strips through riparian reserves is legal if it is for the purpose of building roads. It remains to be seen if the discovery of the rare slug in the proposed right-of-

DYSART WOODS

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current threat to Dysart Woods. Although the creation of a buffer zone around the preserve in 1970 has halted the encroachment of surface mining, underground mining, particularly longwall mining, may irreversibly harm this priceless area.

Extracting the coal could alter the water table in the area and parch the soil. Surface disturbances associated with underground mining, higher dust levels, truck traffic, vibrations in the ground, and unnatural water runoff could put stress on the vegetation.

Worse yet, longwall mining causes the ground to actually sink or collapse. This sudden shifting, called subsidence, could undercut the forest and reduce Dysart Woods to a pile of sticks.

Lest you think the state of Ohio would not allow this to happen, think again. To my knowledge, the Division of Mines and Reclamation has never once denied an application to mine coal. One application was amended in

1988. The coal companies maintain that they provide most of the jobs in the area. In reality they only provide 4.5 percent of the jobs in Belmont County. What they do have is power.

The coal industry has used their profits to buy out the politicians. In fact, since September 1995, Ohio Valley Coal has donated \$6,000 to Bob Ney, our congressman, and \$5,000 to Governor Voinovich both of whom have worked to weaken the Clean Air Act, reduce coal mine taxes, and reduce transportation costs for coal. These politicians echo the coal company's "jobs provided" song. Is it any wonder? If they were really concerned about jobs they would have been working to bring a clean industry to this area. It appears as though east central Ohio has been sacrificed to the exploitation of a few rich companies with profits sent to distant cities.

In addition, Ohio Valley Coal has made large contributions to those who sit on Congressional environmental regulatory committees. And we won-

der why so little gets accomplished. In fact, one only has to review the direction of the campaign contributions of this company to predict which area will be demolished next. Look out Pennsylvania!

The coal companies are so feared here that local attorneys will not defend a client who has received a "SLAPP" suit (a suit designed to keep complainers quiet). Some local newspapers refuse to print "controversial" stories or even publish events that are in any way staged against the coal company. Every effort is made to appease the coal company's continued exploitation of the people and the land. The fossil fuel business is not just toxic, destructive and dirty, it is predatory, exploitative and arrogant.

We are little people going up against a giant. We need your help. We have no experience; and our people are fearful. We need to be able to prove that a loss of groundwater causes vegetative stress. We need to convince the state of Ohio that natural water is

our basic right and not a mineral that was separated from our deeds when the coal mineral rights were separated at the turn of the century.

An informal hearing is scheduled for August 4, 1997. We are trying for a delay as we feel access to crucial information has been impeded. Although the application was displayed in the Belmont County courthouse for the prescribed period, the records clerk insists on charging a copy service of \$1 per page. None of us had the money to purchase a 6-inch-thick volume at that price so as of this writing we have not seen it yet. Write letters to Lisa Morris, Chief Division of Mines and Reclamation at 1855 Fountain Square Court, Building H-3 Columbus, Ohio 43224. For more information contact Diane Burnham at (614)926-9260 or Lisa Helms at (614)425-1470; email rockroll@1st.net.

Diane Burnham is a U.C. graduate who has lived on a tree farm in Ohio for 3 years.

Is There Anybody Out There?

Dear EF! friends

About a year ago in your Shit for Brains page, you printed a letter from a Death Row inmate, who was wanting someone to write him. Anyway, I responded (I was the only one who did), and I must tell you what an enjoyable friendship I have with him, via correspondence, for the past year. He has been on death row in Florida for the past 14 years, and his time is up. I believe, sometime later this year. He is very remorseful of the folly of his youth and is ready to accept his fate in the electric chair. Some of his friends on the "Row", have gone mad from years of solitary confinement, and they bang their heads on the walls all the time and scream horribly.

I send him an EF! Journal regularly (it's one of the few things he's allowed) and my letters to him, from the "outside", keep him informed of the world outside, and keep him from going insane. He is very, very grateful for all this, since people like him are shunned by their families, and miss their children very much.

While we other people come and go whenever we feel like it and take for granted all our freedoms, we don't realize how short life is, and be grateful for every blessed day we see a sunrise or a sunset or the smell of fresh morning air everyday. The thought of "frying" in the chair is too much for some of these inmates to handle everyday, and they go crazy. They're already dead before they make it to the chair, mentally and emotionally, like zombies.

Thank you for having printed this man's letter on your letters page a year ago. It has been an eye-opening experience for me, and a life changing one as well. I never did ask him what he "did" to end up on Death Row years

and years ago, and I don't want to know. We just talk about today and yesterday. Talking about the future is too painful for them.

I just thought that you would like to know. Thank you!

Sincerely

—NAME WITHHELD

Dear Earth First!

*** * * U R G E N T WARNING *** U R G E N T WARNING *** U R G E N T WARNING *****

TO ANY EARTH FIRSTIERS WHO MAY BE PASSING THROUGH BOISE, IDAHO THIS SUMMER: DO NOT, I REPEAT DO NOT DRINK THE LATTES SOLD AT THE FLYING M ESPRESSO AT 500 WEST IDAHO STREET, BOISE.

We have been researching possible causes of peculiar behavior by employees of Idaho's richest environmental group, The Idaho Conservation League, and while data so far is inconclusive we have identified a possible source of this behavior to be something in the lattes sold at the Flying M (an otherwise respectable establishment) just down the street from ICL's offices.

As many of you know, ICL has loudly proclaimed its endorsement of Senator Kempthorne's ESA bill. We have been wholly unable to explain this circumstance outside the possibility that ICL employees are somehow being poisoned, and our research shows that one thing they all share is a deep fondness for lattes.

Some have suggested that it is not the lattes at all, that the real reason ICL supports this devastating legislation is that Kempthorne has promised them protection for their cherished Boulder-White Clouds proposed wilderness area. However, we reject this

as mere paranoid conspiracy theorizing. After all, what environmental group would sell off the world's black footed ferrets, red cockaded woodpeckers, and chinook salmon for the sake of their own one favorite backcountry retreat? Such a thing would require a wise-use group, not an environmental group! We therefore suspect it's something in the lattes.

Has to be.

You may contact Flying M Espresso at (208) 345-4320.

With Deep Concern,

—TUBER & FAMILY, IDAHO

Dear EF! Journal,
Ever get a little paranoid wondering why some folks insist, so consis-

tently, on useless tactics instead of challenging, creative ones?

At the June 1 fracas in downtown Eugene over the cutting of trees, the local EF!ers did their usual passive "resistance" by sitting in some of the trees until (rather quickly) removed. Like a masochistic character on a cross, the last protester was brought down following screams of anguish for his safety. Then the patented vigil outside the jail took place, according to a well-known script. At a demo later in the week EF! was fine with the obnoxious peace cops, always on hand to neuter any gathering and serve their uniformed friends.

What do these tactics achieve? Please, no help from the others or from consulting the decades of "militant" impotence.

At the site of the tree-cutting a huge sign proclaimed the company profiting thereby. Other objects by this outfit are underway, the location of its office and the address of its owner similarly accessible...

Why then, over and over, only the same old symbolic waltz that threatens nothing and puts no heat whatsoever on the public directly responsible for the destruction? The tired political rallies in approved public spaces against politicians are likewise demonstrably toothless and ineffective.

"No compromise in the defense of Mother Earth"? That should read, "Only compromise and playing by the rules is allowed".

—BARRY BONDHUS

Masochistic character replies:

We climbed trees in downtown Eugene to make a statement about the destruction of some trees in a once beautiful part of town. The police, under the watchful eye of the mayor, responded with pepper mace. They soaked me with nearly twenty cans of pepper mace on my face, neck and genitals, beat me with their fists, contorted my body and tortured me until I let go of that tree. "Screams of anguish for [my] safety" did not bring me down from the tree. The police trying to pull me off the tree by my head and by yanking my waist with the firetruck is what brought me out of that tree.

Our only plan was for the city to hold off on the cutting until the city council meeting on the next night. We believed that if the city just waited for two days and had a hearing with considerable public input, then they might alter their plans and leave some of the trees. It was a simple plan, maybe a bit idealistic and naive, but we never expected to be tortured over it.

The achievements from this action reached farther than our wildest dreams. Sure, we lost those city trees, but we woke up a sleeping dragon of civil resentment. The issues surrounding the development and the police's response to peaceful protest were on the front page of the local paper for a full month afterwards. We now have a police review commission



Dear SFB,

Now that I've taken the time to dis Anne Archy in public: perhaps I should take the time to apologize publicly as well. We talked it over briefly. I'm not yet convinced that she understands the horrid ambivalence of the situation, and under which I inevitably had to operate. But then, after the frontal assault, I'm not holding my breath for understanding.

Now that I've got Anne's attention, I would like the I-hate-Anne club to take note as well: if this conflict is not resolved in some sane and open way, then I will be on your collective trail in my own insane and open way. Please be certain tat you are all eminently dis-able. And you need not protest that I should be open to such attack myself. Perish the thought; it's only fair.

—MATTHEW HAUN

with real, non-compromising activists on it. We now have an atmosphere which has made the Eugene Police afraid to even talk to the "independent" review board. We have a recall campaign for the county district attorney and soon one for the mayor. The city is now afraid to cut a single tree without bending over backwards to get citizens' input.

None of this would have happened without us "playing by the rules." None of this would have happened if we would have "fucked shit up" or attacked "the location of its office and the address of its owner..." (that seems to be what you are suggesting).

—JF

Dear EF!

I've just received my first EF! Journal yesterday. I enjoyed reading it at breaks during class today. There's so much to read about.

I live in The Woodlands, Tx. (about 30 minutes north of Houston). I don't know why they call it "The Woodlands" because about every month or so I'll see construction workers clearing land full of pine trees to build more homes. I abhor the sight/sound and smell of the bulldozers choppen and clearing more land. Last summer they built a road right behind my house. The people that were showing us the house B-4 we moved in told us they wouldn't build a road there. There was already a gravel road there for construction workers to go through. All I hear at night are sirens and huge trucks with loud motors driving behind my house. We use to have rabbits come into our back yard, but ever since the road was built I haven't seen one. There's also a lot of road kill of skunks, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and deer. People will say "get off the road you stupid animal! what are you doing in human territory?!" If they had any brains they would remember that we invaded their home and a territory of animals, and I haven't heard of, or seen in the area newspaper, any organization that wants to control this massive clearing. Soon they will have to call it "The Raped Woodlands, Tx."

I have a question, do you all make backpacks? If you do manufacture them, I'd buy one because I want to flash your slogan at my high school next year. Tell me how much and I'll send a check for it.

Sincerely,

—BETH BAKER

Dear Shit for brains

I have a bone to pick and I thought the whole world should know. It's about the conditions I am forced to live in. I have to look at this really ugly blue house all day (and when I say all day, I mean all day—they keep me here until 4 a.m.!) I like the old Journal house better. There I got to play all day and chew up lots of stuff. At this thing called the new Journal house. I am tied up all day (and night) to a fence with nothing but rags as toys. Oh and you should see what these humans do in my water dish! They call it a "baby pool," all I know is that they put their dirty bodies in it and it turns the water gray. I am writing to you all hoping someone can do something. Can't you all liberate me or something?

Please help,

—CUsITH (KOOSHEE)



The Direct Action Manual

BOOK REVIEW BY ROD CORONADO

Years from now our grandchildren will ask us what we did to prevent the destruction of planet Earth. The *Earth First! Direct Action Manual* is your ticket out of a shameful response. In what will hopefully become required reading for our growing movement, the *Manual* allows you to focus your anger and rage at what is being done to our Earth Mother and transform it into peaceful, nonviolent direct action that gets results. Within its pages you will find all you need to know to begin your own battle to defend Earth and animals when playing by the rules fails.

The *Manual* covers a wide range of topics, all of equal importance. From the principles of nonviolence, consensus organizing and subsequent self-empowerment, to a simple yet concise explanation of what you can expect from the legal system should you be arrested for any of the described tactics and strategies. From tree sits, tripods, lock boxes and dragons to road, rail and ship blockades, the *Manual* provides many alternatives that will help you halt "progress" into North America's last wild places. The *Manual* provides invaluable information and instruction on courses of action we should consider our generation's greatest obligation.

This book does not assist you in any action that could land you hard time in prison (act fast before it does!). Most of the actions it details should cost you nothing more than a misdemeanor conviction and maybe an overnight stay in a county jail. [Editors note: Actually, some crimes described in the *Manual* are felonies, and even for the misdemeanors folks have spent a month in the hole—don't get caught, until you want to be.] Not a lot to ask for from future generations of all life. The contributors to the

manual are tried-and-true eco-warriors, and whether your cause is environmental, animal, social justice, indigenous sovereignty or any other, this book has much to offer those striving to slow the invader's death march across our lands. The *Manual* will take you on a step-by-step checklist and easy to follow guide on how to carry out your own grassroots direct action. It also provides basic information on personal security and how to respond to law enforcement questioning, interrogation and intimidation that every activist should read. Utilizing the *Manual*, you will learn how to reconnoiter a target, be it urban or backwoods, and how to construct the necessary equipment to launch the ultimate blockade or occupation. Also included in this handy little book is a first-aid section that can be applied to all forms of eco-defense.

The *Manual* will help you identify potentially violent situations and how best to avoid or deal with them. The repetitive message is to be prepared. The nonviolent eco-warrior is often placed in a vulnerable position where serious injury or even death is a possibility. This is not a game. Fighting for peace and justice, defending Earth and animals is our serious attempt to bring an end to the war being waged against us and our planet. It is a war that claims lives everyday. Only with the kind of common sense and organization that the *Manual* teaches can we hopefully avoid it claiming our own. Our calling is to place ourselves between threats of

destruction and all we love. The *Manual* is the basic training guide to ensure that we do this with maximum effect and minimum threat of physical injury.

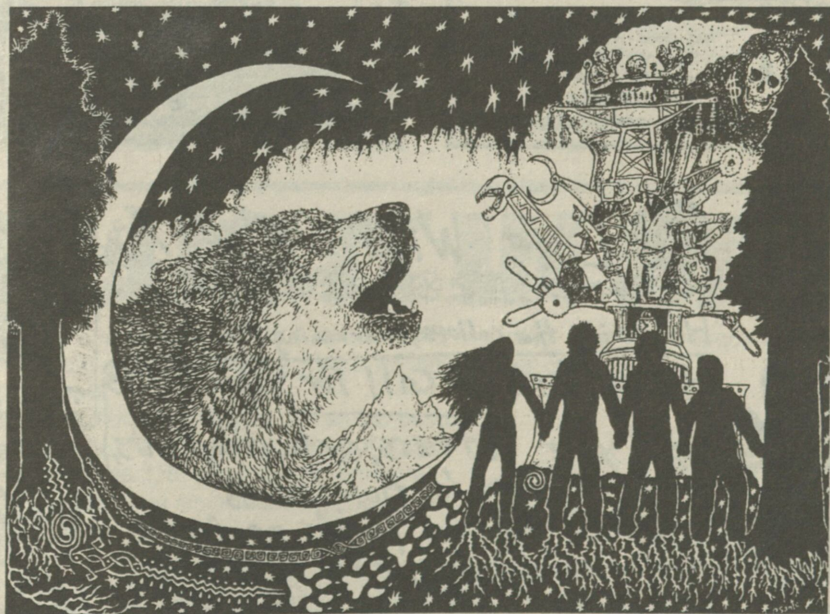
Whether for a week, a season or a lifetime, choose a course of action suggested in this book and register your vote for a living planet. Here it all is, in one simple book. The only other thing you will need is a little hardware and a whole lot of heart. For each day that we rationalize inaction, another grove of old growth forest falls, another salmon run dies and another Earth culture disappears. With this book in hand gather your warriors, your friends, family, co-workers, lovers, neighbors, community members and take the battle for the Earth out of their playing field and into ours. You are the last line of defense for what little remains of ancient wilderness and the children of Earth. Put away your 3-piece suit, switch off your computer and take a stand your children will thank you for. There is nothing more satisfying than hearing the Earth rapist's machinery grinding down as it is forced to a standstill by brave warriors who will carry the ideas in the *Manual* into reality. Read it, use it and live it well.

This book will lead you to the threshold that we all must strive towards—where we must place our lives on the line to defend the one planet we all call home. These tactics and strategies will bring you closer to the Circle of Life where the Earth Mother can nurture, protect and empower you with all her strength. The *Manual* deserves a place in your pack with *Ecodefense* and *The Final Nail* and hopefully will be one of an eco-warrior's handiest resources in our struggle to keep the Earth always first. Buy this book, get out there and just do it!



JUST RELEASED • ORDER NOW • HERE'S HOW • JUST RELEASED • ORDER NOW • HERE'S HOW

Earth First! Direct Action Manual



First Edition

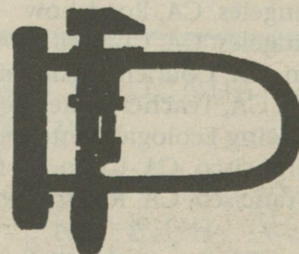
Uncompromising Nonviolent Resistance
in Defense of Mother Earth!

The *Earth First! Direct Action Manual* is the antidote for despair! Over 150 pages of action-packed information on nonviolent tactics, techniques and devices used by activists to defend the Earth from corporate scumbags and lawless governments. Check out what it's got!

DISCONTENTS

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BACKCOUNTRY ACTION • U-LOCKS • COBRA LINK MOTORCYCLE LOCKS CHAINS
AND HEAVY DUTY CABLES •
LOCK BOXES AND BRACELETS •
BARRELS • BATMOBILES • SLEEPING
DRAGONS • RAIL BLOCKADES •
TRIPODS • BIPODS • MONO POLES •
CANTILEVERS • TREE SITS • KNOTS •
INTERNETS • ROAD OCCUPATIONS/FREE
STATES • HELICOPTER BLOCKADES • SHIP
BLOCKADES • CAT AND MOUSE • CRITICAL MASS
BIKE RIDES • HUNT SABOTAGE • MASS ACTIONS •
YARNING • DEBRIS • ROAD RIP • TRUCKER FUCKERS • HOT
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PHIES FROM THE US, AUSTRALIA, UK AND CANADA!

Energize your campaign with this detailed and heavily illustrated "idiots guide" to the strongest blockading tactics known—tactics activists all over the world have proven successful when the law fails you... and it will!



"Years from now our grandchildren will ask us what we did to prevent the destruction of planet Earth. The *Earth First! Direct Action Manual* is your ticket out of a shameful response. The *Manual* deserves a place in your pack with *Ecodefense* and *The Final Nail*... It will hopefully become required reading for our growing movement..."

—Rodney Coronado

For postpaid copies send \$5—\$5,000 sliding scale donation to:
DAM Collective, c/o SWEF! PO Box 10384, Eugene, OR 97440 USA:
(541) 343-7305; e-mail: swef!@efn.org

Page 30 Earth First! Lughnasadh 1997

WILD ROCKIES WEEK

August 11-17, 1997

Comstock Mine - outside Dixie, Idaho

The heart of the Big Wild is under attack. The forces of darkness strike deep into the wilderness. The chainsaws buzz; the feller-buncher growls; the timber beast rears its ugly head. Once again, the industrial machine besieges Cove/Mallard. But wait. In the distance, a howl rises over the land. Coyote grins. The warriors of the Earth take up the flag of resistance. The battle has again been joined.

The Cove/Mallard Resistance invites you to join us for Wild Rockies Week. A time to come together and learn about the Big Wild, the land and its struggle to survive. It will be a time to share skills, stories and songs. It will be a time to renew your commitment to defend the Last Big Wild.

Please join us for workshops, hikes, campfires, poetry and songs. Support the defenders of the Big Wild and learn what you can do to help stop the Cove/Mallard timber sales. Contact the Cove/Mallard Coalition at POB 8968 Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; e-mail: cove@moscow.com.

Shasta Bioregional Gathering 5

You are enthusiastically invited to attend and participate in the fifth annual Shasta Bioregional Gathering. It will be held September 4-7, 1997, at the profoundly beautiful Patrick's Point State Park near Eureka, California.

"Restoring Watersheds, Communities & Ourselves" is this year's theme. Come and experience this unique event that combines relearning older traditions with discovering new approaches encompassing everything from public issues and wilderness appreciation to food and art.

For registration info contact Planet Drum/SBG 5, POB 31251, San Francisco, CA 94131, Shasta Bioregion (415) 285-6556; e-mail: planetdrum@igc.apc.org.

1997 National Greens Gathering

The 1997 National Gathering of the Greens/Green Party USA is coming to Lawrence, Massachusetts August 27 to September 1. The theme of this tenth national gathering is "Green Unity & Progressive Solidarity." Green activists and invited speakers from environmental, economic and social justice movements around the US and abroad will be in attendance.

Registration fees for the gathering are \$150 for all meals, basic accommodations and events during the six-day gathering. Discounts are available for early registrants and those needing financial assistance. For more information, call (508) 688-3569; e-mail: lgi@igc.apc.org.

The Caretaker Gazette is a unique newsletter containing job openings, advice & information for property caretakers, housesitters & landowners. Published since 1983, each issue has 80+ property caretaking job opportunities, worldwide. Property caretakers enjoy rent-free living in desirable locations. Only \$15/half yr, or \$24/yr.

The Caretaker Gazette, 1845 Deane EF, Pullman WA 99163. Credit card orders, please call: (509) 332-0806.

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A non-profit, tax-exempt foundation which funds research, education and literature projects. Funding proposals and donations can be sent to:

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST PEABODY COAL CO.

—EARLY OCTOBERish—

Join with activists in North America, Europe and Australia to hit Peabody Coal Co, Lord Hanson and his subsidiaries wherever they lurk in a worldwide day of action against the British corporate, colonial destroyer of Black Mesa/Big Mountain, Arizona, USA

For further information/updates contact: North America: Turtle (520) 623-5252; e-mail: tortuga@sw-center.org. European and Australian contacts to come soon... For now you can snail mail Jason Marshall at: 67A Shore Road, Innellan, Argyll, PA23 7TR, Scotland, Great Britain.

P.S. This call is most certainly not encouraging anyone to break any law of any state or to destroy property, occupy sites, delete files, barricade, banner, paint, reclaim, redistribute, cause general havoc and disruption or anything like that... if you get the drift.

Forest Action Network Wants You!

Help stop the "War in the Woods!" FAN is bringing the Great Bear Rainforest Campaign to the streets of Vancouver for the month of August with plans to stir it up! We're looking for a few (actually a lot of!) dedicated, kick-ass activists to let people know we mean business about saving BC's forests. We have ideas for everything from demos and rallies to fundraising, but we need more (especially on fundraising!). More than anything, we need your minds, bodies and souls to pull it all off! Contact Dayna or Dan in Bella Cooola to help out in any capacity (250) 799-5800. After August 1 call (250) 739-ISTA. Money, places to stay, vehicles and people, people, people are all needed now!

Bioneers Conference:

Visionary Solutions for Restoring the Earth

Since 1990, The Bioneers Conference has brought together leading scientific and social visionaries with practical solutions for restoring the earth. Restoring the earth is destined to become a central enterprise of the years ahead, and leading the effort is a growing movement of "bioneers," biological pioneers who are using nature to heal nature. The Conference will be held October 31 to November 2 at the Presidio in San Francisco, California. Topics include: Genetic Engineering, Corporate Power, Eco-Activism, Environmental Justice, Permaculture, Eco-Psychology, and Youth and Environment among many others. For registration information and scholarships, call (505) 986-0366; e-mail: chris@aol.com.

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PETITION, WELL-RECEIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO AND MARIN COUNTIES, NEEDS SPONSORS AND PETITIONERS NATIONWIDE TO COUNTER THE ESA'S POLITICAL FOES, INCLUDING PRESIDENT CLINTON. SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR START-UP AND CONTINUING OPERATING EXPENSES. PETITIONERS ARE NEEDED TO CIRCULATE THE PETITION AND FOR NOW TO COLLECT DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THEIR WORK. FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE TO: MARIN EARTH FIRST!, P.O. Box 705, MILL VALLEY, CA 94941

PLUG IT IN DAY

Who: Everyone in the US with access to electricity. (Anyone is encouraged to participate and to organize a Plug It In! day in other countries. Turn it on!)

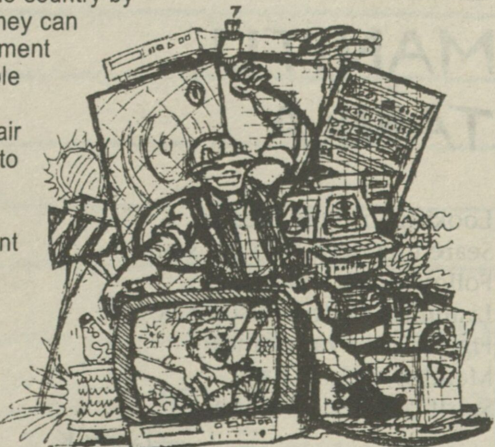
Why: To blackout power across the country by empowering the citizens to believe they can make an impact, to show the government and the industrial state that the people have the power!

What: A national day of lounge-chair activism using household appliances to shutdown the entire power grid of the United States

When: The average hottest moment of the year, the 15th of August, 1997, at 3 pm PST

Where: Everytown, USA

Slogans: "Power to the People!", "Empower the People!", "The People Have the Power!" and "Tune In, Turn On and Topple the Power Tower!"



CULTURE AND ANIMALS FOUNDATION 12TH ANNUAL COMPASSIONATE LIVING FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 26-28 RALEIGH, NC

Featuring: T. Colin Campbell, Pat Darby, Chris DeRuso, Jeffrey Masson, and Rachel Rosenthal.

Plus other exciting presentations on Animal Issues, Vegan Meals

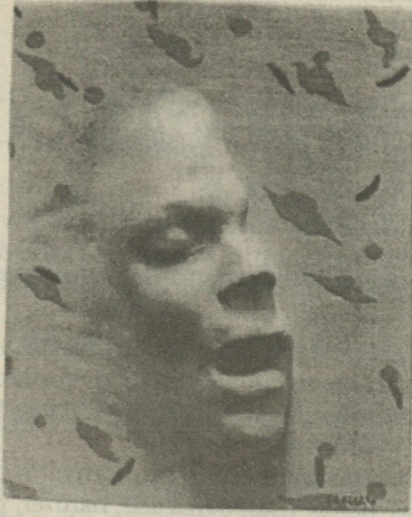
For more information write or call:

Tom Regan
Culture and Animals Foundation
3509 Eden Croft Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612
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...AND JUST AS DANGEROUS



GARDENS OF EVIL

Electronic spasms of the computer
excrete illuminated numbers on the big
board, holding investors entranced,
serious players in money's game.

A tree falls in the Amazon to make
room for cattle; a peon's beanfield
turned to pasture for nickel cheaper
hamburgers under golden arches.

Somnambulant shoppers wander through malls,
gardens of consumption needful of
middlemen between the gashed strip mines
and the landfills of poison.

Shoppers warding off subliminal messages
borne on winds from the south, of forests
razed and peasants killed by death squads,
pockets heavy with corporate cash.

For those who know the equations of the
accountancy of death, each jump in board
numbers is a fortune made from empty bellies
and more goods sold in gardens of evil.

—SID BRIDGES



HAVING A PLUTONIUM PARTY

flat out on the patio
that's a toxic notion
haul along some samples of your
tank treads & a hawk to pluck up
leftovers...sure, the oily
stench of slugsummer might
be gauntish good but I prophesy that
everydweeb will eventually slouch out
licking sulfur stains
off their lips as they
club away
hordes of
fatted gnats
from your "feast of
too many wrong turns"

—JIM DEWITT

Send poetry to:
Warrior Poets Society
ASUC Box 361
Berkeley, CA 94720-4510



DOC, DOC, WHAT GIT'S OVER ME?

DOC! DOC! WHAT GIT'S OVER ME?
Sometimes I just get all out of control
I think I need help doc
I think I do—I do—I do

You see, Doc, for months I can be almost normal
Plant my garden then go for a run
Play sports with the neighborhood kids
Take 'em camping and swimming—have lots of fun!

But then doc, when I see the clearcut forests
When I witness the slaughter when I'm out to sea
When I see all the logs being shipped away
Something just sort of takes control of me

Then Doc Doc I don't know what happens
But I swear it's not my fault!
I just can't take it no more—I can't
I feel I gotta bring it to a grinding halt

Then doc, doc, I go into a complete rage
Their destruction just drives me over the brink!
Doc doc—it's at this point—that I just want to SINK! SINK! SINK!

I WANT TO SINK EVERY LAST GODDAMNED WHALER AND DRIFTNETTER, DOC!
WRECK ALL THOSE LOG-EXPORTING AND CHIP MILL SHIPS TOO!
BASH EVERY TOXIC DUMPING SHIP TO THE BOTTOM DOC!
I DO I DO I DOOOOOOO!

I WANT TO FUCK UP THEIR MACHINES WORSE THAN THEY'RE FUCKING UP THE OCEANS!
MAKE THEM PAY THRU THEIR POCKETS FOR THE CRIMES THAT THEY COMMIT!
AND I JUST CAN'T STOP MYSELF DOC—I CAN'T!
I WON'T QUIT I WON'T QUIT I WON'T QUIT!

NO DOC, I WON'T SIT DOWN!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S NUTS, NOT ME!
AND DOC, DON'T YOU TRY TO STOP ME!
CAUSE I'M OUT THE DOOR AFTER ANOTHER ONE TOO!

AND DOC,
I'm gonna sink this one for you!

—DWIGHT WORKER



SUUK MANITU TANKA

Looking into my dreams
Searching deep into my soul
Following its shadow
Listening for that distant howl
Fighting for your future
Member of your pack
Spirit brother!

—JASON K.



Falling off—

that flake gave way
and the protection
is
popping
ding, ding, ding
your back and groin
numb from the
catch and snap
down
ankles and shoulders
pounding against
the face
lost in the rush
of
shout:
Falling!
—CHRISTOPHER CROSSEN



EARTH FIRST! TRINKETS AND SNAKE OIL BOOKS

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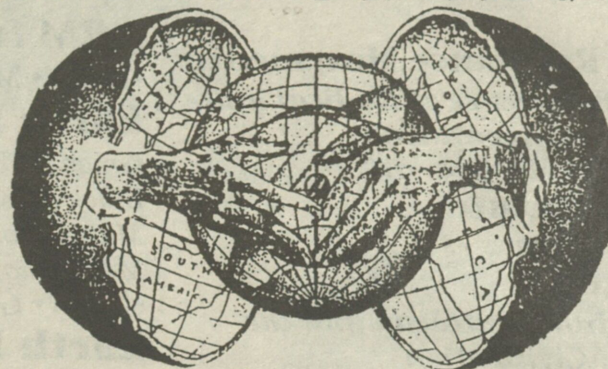
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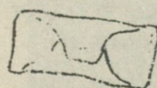
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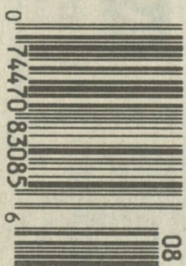
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